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Story on PAGE A2

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JUST/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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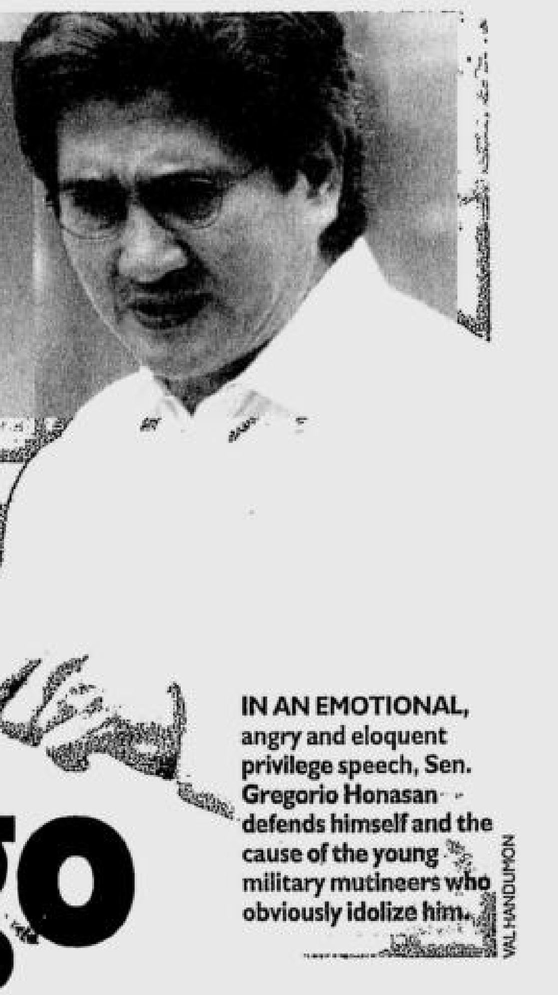
Palace asked me to intervene–Gringo



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"While these conspirators have not yet been accounted for, it is not yet time to lift the declaration of a state of rebellion," he said in Filipino.

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LAWMAKER/ A18

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5 MUTINY/ A18

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FPJ/ A19

Sin thanks mutineers, calls for reforms in military

By Blanche S. Rivera

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"While it is necessary to investigate the perpetrators of the mutiny, it is more urgent to institute reforms right now and attend to the legitimate grievances expressed," Sin said in a homily delivered in a thanksgiving Mass at the Edsa Shrine yesterday.

The influential cardinal thanked the rebel soldiers for "calling the attention of the nation to the evils of corruption." He said the bloodless resolution of the 20-hour mutiny of the Magdalo group was not the triumph of the government but the "victory of peace."

"This is not the time for congratulations," he said. "No one won last Sunday. What is needed is immediate reform, firm discipline and a strong will to sustain it."

Sin also said that while there were "many reasons for thanksgiving," the mutineers' call for reform was valid.

"We cannot and must not deny that so much is yet to be accomplished and fulfilled," he said. "So many poor people still await adequate food and medicine, decent shelter, proper educational and employment opportunities ... We still need to stamp out graft and corruption

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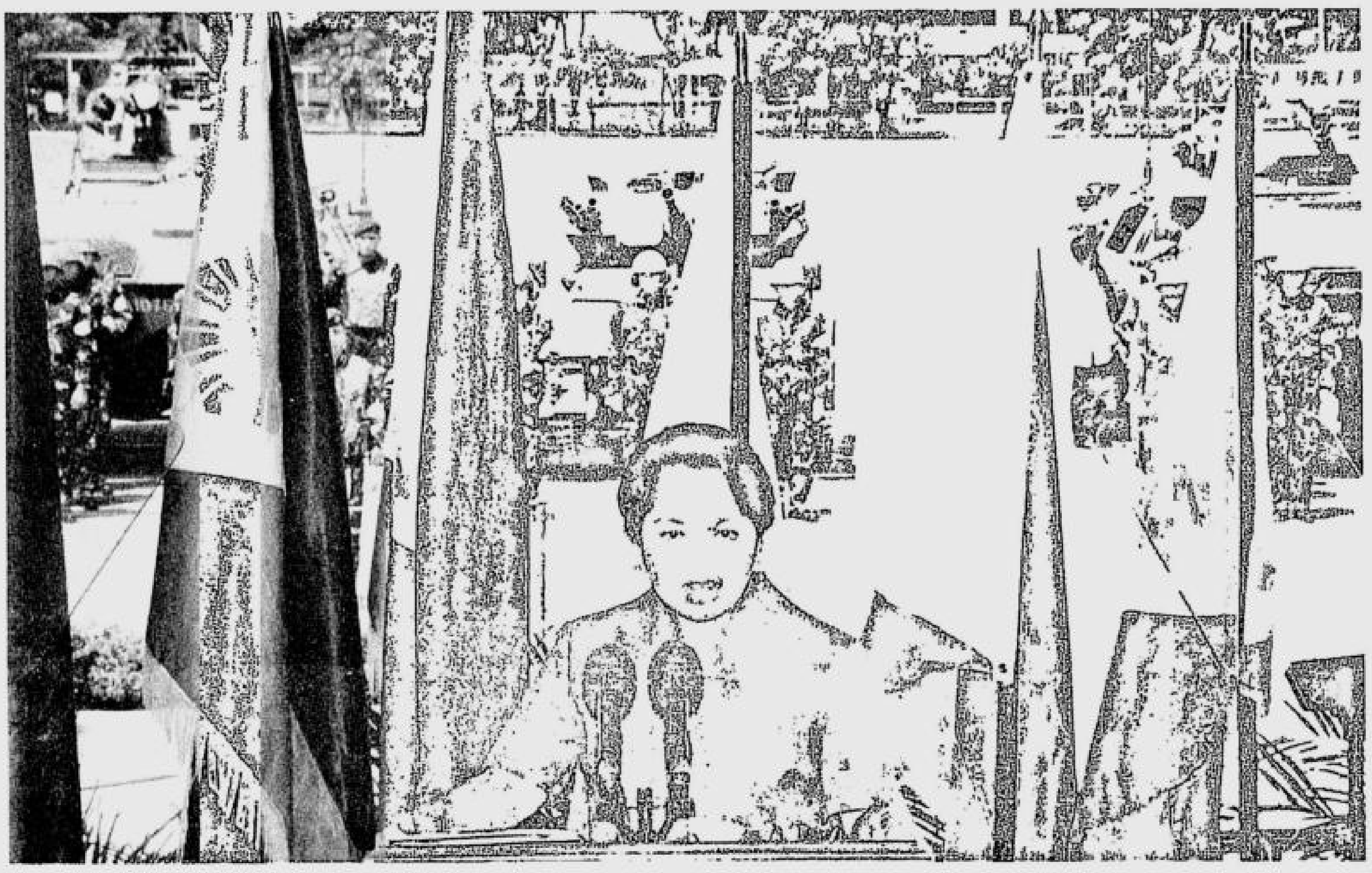

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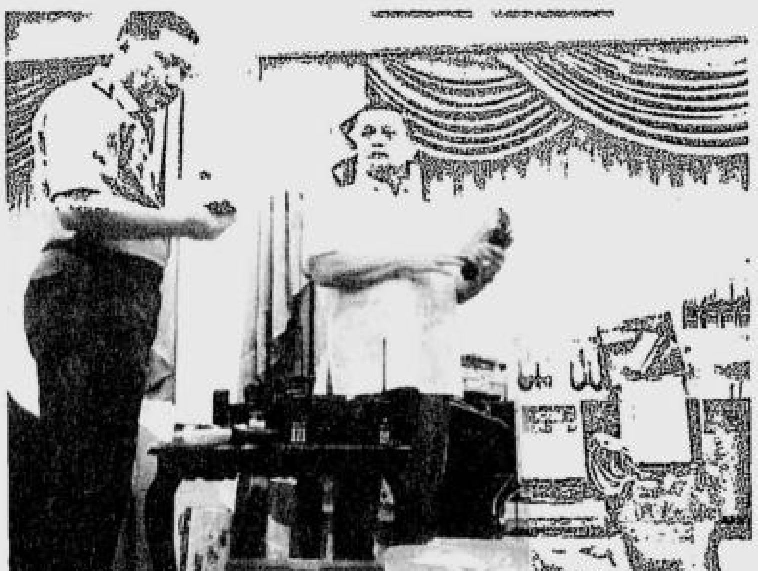

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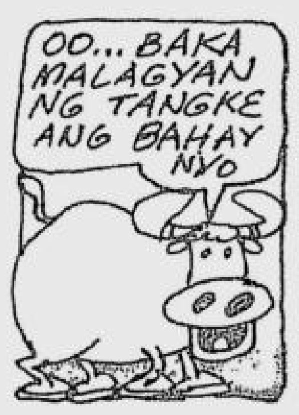

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/30/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Danding appeals

Lawyers cite lack of due process in coco levy ruling

COJUANGCO

BUSINESSMAN Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco yesterday said the Sandiganbayan "breached its limited authority" when it ruled that his acquisition of the United Coconut Planters Bank was illegal as he had used funds public funds taken from coconut farmers.

In a motion for reconsideration filed before the anti-graft court yesterday, Cojuangco's lawyers Estelito Mendoza and Alberto Valenzuela Jr. also claimed that the Sandiganbayan had violated Cojuangco's right to due process.

They said that the partial summary judgment handed down on July 11 violated "procedural due process" as Cojuangco's right to be heard had been curtailed.

"There is no trial. Witnesses are not presented. No cross-examination is made. The credibility of the witnesses may not be effectively assessed. For these reasons, if the right to procedural due process is not to be violated, the rules governing summary judgment must be strictly followed," the lawyers said.

By rendering judgment on the 16-year-old forfeiture suit without hearing his side, the Sandiganbayan went beyond its "limited" authority in resolving ownership disputes, Cojuangco said.

"It resolved disputed or contested issues of fact which could have only been resolved in a full-blown trial," the lawyers said.

The anti-graft body forfeited in favor of the government Cojuangco's shares in the UCPB saying they had been acquired with funds taken from the coconut levy paid by coconut farmers, and were thus owned by the government from the very beginning. *Armand Nocum*

GMA forms 3-man body to probe 'roots' of mutiny

REYES

FELICIANO

HERNANDEZ

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has formed a three-member commission composed of two retired Supreme Court justices and an academic to investigate the roots of the military mutiny last Sunday and the "provocations" that inspired it.

The President made the announcement in a speech at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. She said retired SC Justice Florentino Feliciano has accepted the appointment to head the commission.

Completing the panel are retired SC Justice Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes and political science professor Carolina Hernandez.

Feliciano and Gonzaga-Reyes are believed to be among the country's best legal minds while Hernandez is a noted military affairs expert. She was a member of the Davide Commission that investigated the 1989 coup attempt.

"With the appointment of Justices Feliciano and Reyes, two of the most respected justices to have ever sat in the Supreme Court, the commission is automatically invested with a great deal of credibility and responsibility," said SC spokesperson Ismael Khan Jr.

Now 75, Feliciano opted for early retirement from the SC in 1975 and joined the World Trade Organization Appellate Tribunal that arbitrated international trade disputes. He headed the tribunal from 2000 to 2001.

Feliciano, whose forte is international law, is a magna cum laude graduate of the UP Law School and obtained his masters and doctorate in law from Yale University. His classmates at the UP law school included former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan and former SC justices Hugo Gutierrez and Flerida Ruth Romero.

Gonzaga-Reyes, who was appointed to the SC in 1999 and retired in 2001, also finished her law degree, magna cum laude, from the UP in 1954.

Both Gonzaga-Reyes and Feliciano were senior counsels of the Sycip, Salazar, Hernandez and Gatmaitan law office, one of the country's biggest law firms, before their appointments to the high court. Feliciano was a managing partner of the firm before becoming associate justice in 1986.

Hernandez, who holds the Carlos P. Romulo Professorial Chair in International Relations at the University of the Philippines, authored the Davide Commission's final report on the 1989 coup.

She is the founder and president of the Institute for Strategic and Development Studies, a private think tank specializing in foreign policy, domestic politics and security and development issues. *Philip C. Tubeza and Gil C. Cabacungan*

Angara rethinks plan not to run

By Christine O. Avendaño

OPPOSITION Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday said he was "thinking of reconsidering" his earlier decision not to run in the 2004 election.

Angara said he is considering the idea because many people, including some economists he met yesterday, have asked him "not to close" that option to seek the presidency next year.

"I am not prepared to say that I am running . . . but I will not foreclose the possibility," he told reporters.

He made the statement a day after he said he was convinced that President Macapagal-Arroyo was running after all, contrary to her December 2002 declaration that she was not participating in the 2004 presidential race.

Angara and other lawmakers held this view after the President delivered her State of the Nation Address the other day.

Angara himself declared early this year that he was skipping the presidential race as well and expressed support to the call of President Macapagal for a unity government.

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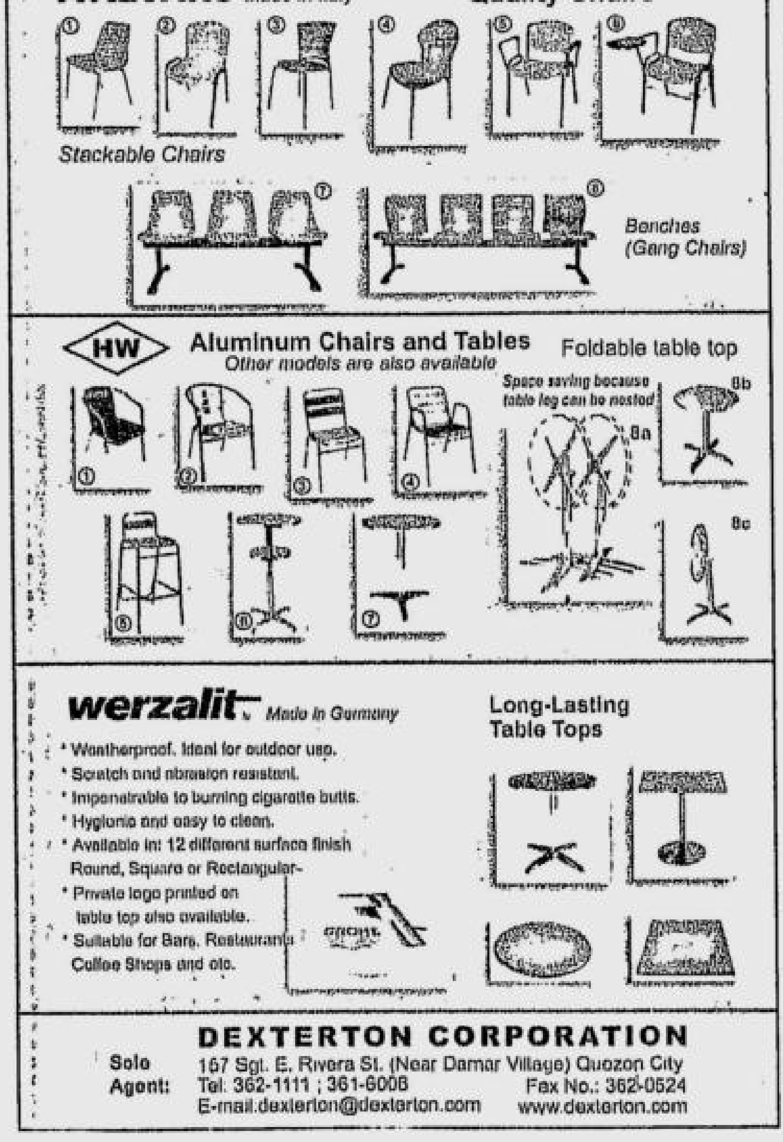
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US lists 30 allies in post-war Iraq

WASHINGTON—The United States on Monday named 30 governments, including the Philippines, that have agreed to help in Iraq by contributing to military or police operations.

Some of the countries do not have the means to pay for their own contributions so they are talking to the United States about US assistance, State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher told a briefing.

A State Department official said the United States would help with transport to Iraq and other logistical needs. "We're not putting them on the payroll. We're not paying any salaries or stipends," added the official, who asked not to be named.

The United States is anxious to muster as much international support as possible for its forces in Iraq, who face daily attacks and are costing about $1 billion a week.

The list of governments willing to contribute included many of those who supported the US invasion of Iraq in March and none of the major opponents of the war.

The spokesperson said he could not say what each government would contribute or how much Washington would pay them. *Reuters*

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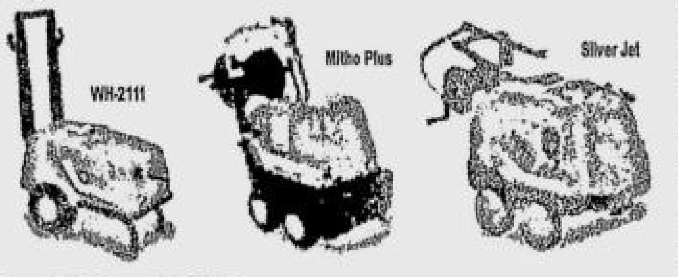

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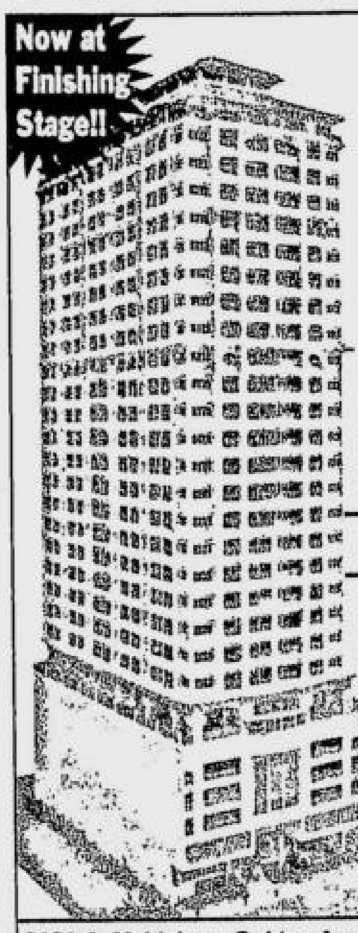
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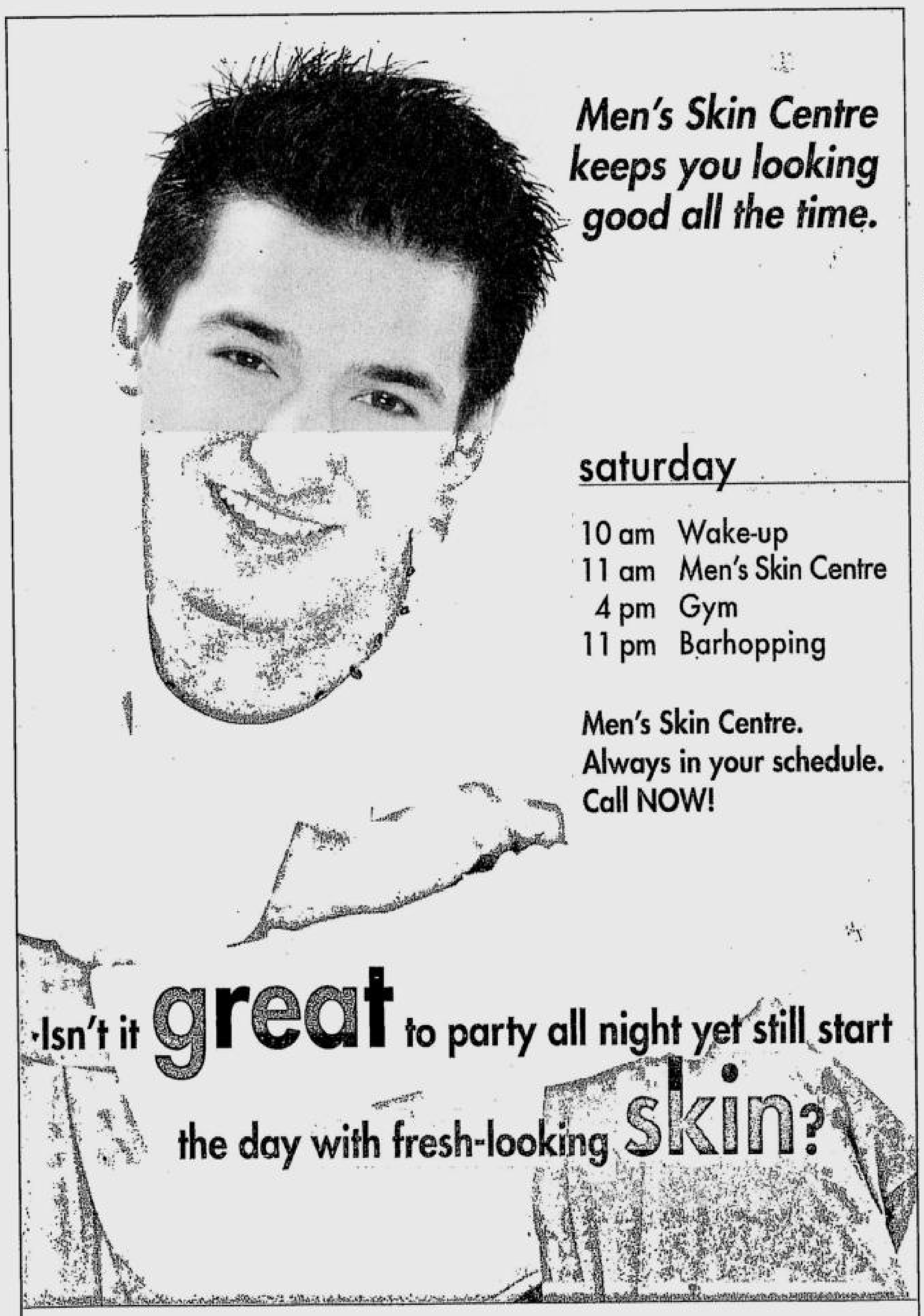
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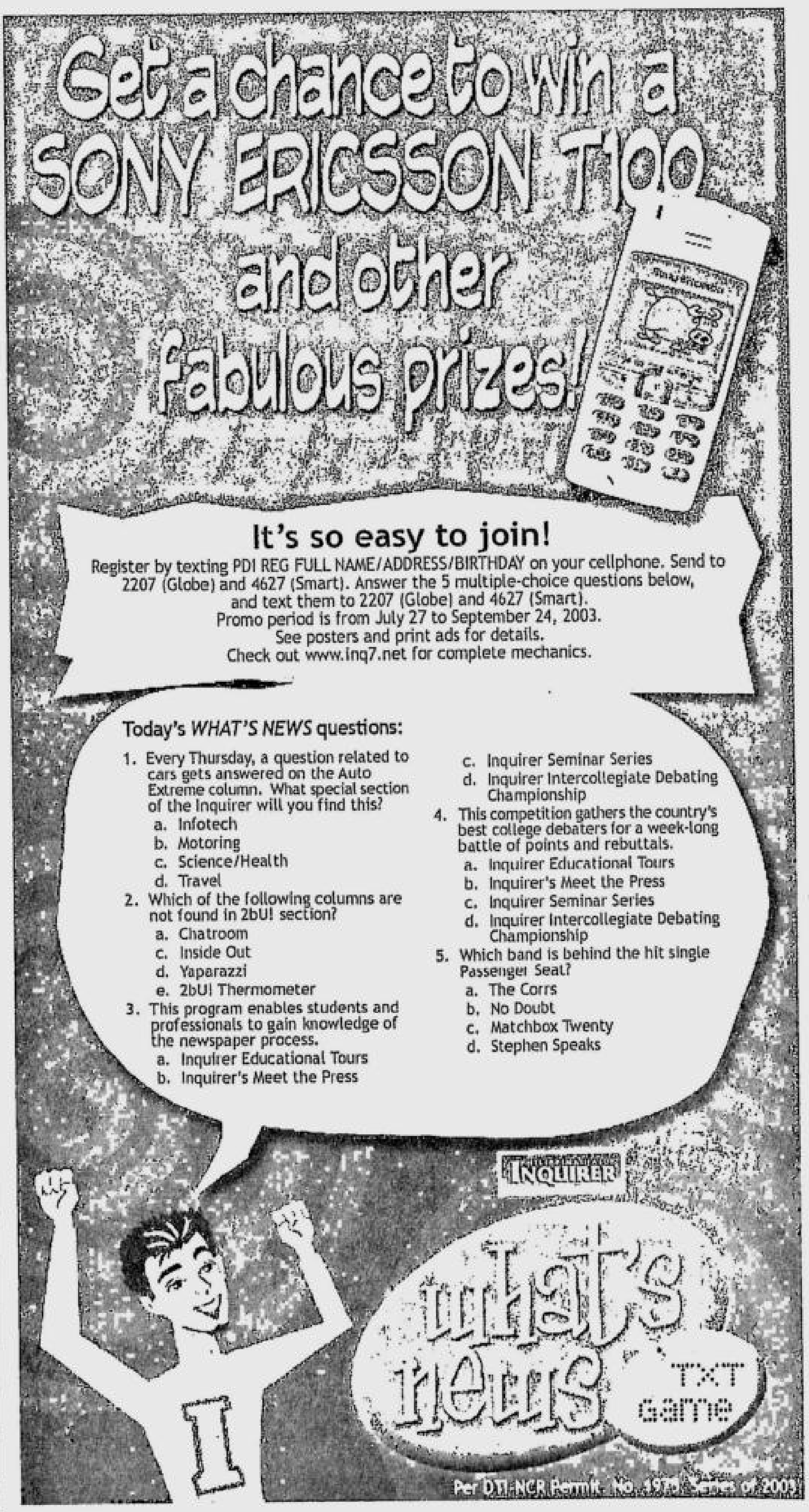
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   b. No Doubt
   c. Matchbox Twenty
   d. Stephen Speaks

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2003

How final hours were handled by negotiators

From page A1

went to Makati City as early as 7 a.m. on Sunday, clarified that he, Honasan and Sotto were not the government's official negotiators.

"We could not be the negotiators. We are in the legislative branch," said Biazon.

He manifested on the floor that their only intention in going to Makati City was to try to defuse the tense situation, and establish communication with the junior officers.

"Our only intention is to establish an open line with them. And we have succeeded in that regard."

Biazon recalled that Senate President Franklin Drilon had called him up Saturday night to tell him of reports about two missing Scout Ranger battalions.

Biazon said he also received a call from Sen. Edgardo Angara.

"I called my contact in the military ... and indeed there were some movements, but it would not be a big one," he said.

But at 6:30 a.m. Sunday, upon learning of the takeover of Oakwood by the rebels, Biazon said he told his wife: "I'm going to Oakwood and find out if there is a danger of bloodshed that could occur in Makati."

Possible bloodshed

Sotto also recalled receiving a call from Angara asking him to contact Honasan, and find ways to stop a possible bloodshed.

Both Sotto and Biazon convinced Honasan to go to Makati despite threats of a possible arrest.

Biazon also called up Drilon and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo several times to extend the 5 p.m. deadline.

At 4:30 p.m., Honasan called up Biazon, asking him where he was. He told Biazon that he was at the Mandarin Hotel, meeting with Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao, Silvestre Afable and Deputy Director Rene Velasco.

"He said, 'I need to be escorted by Senator Sotto,' probably because of the threat of arrest," said Biazon.

When they were allowed to go up the hotel, Malacañang emissaries—housing chief Mike Defensor, Velasco and Col. Danny Lim, commander of the Scout Rangers—joined them.

"They were allowed to go up, but they maintained that they were not the official negotiators," said Biazon.

But he stressed that the "exploratory talks," which started at 5:20 p.m., had paved the way for formal negotiations to commence.

Prior to that, the government could not establish direct contact with the rebels.

No Cimatu

Biazon also disclosed that the soldiers had rejected any negotiations with the duly appointed chief negotiator, Ambassador Roy Cimatu, but were later prevailed upon by the three senators.

"But after we told them that nothing will happen if they insisted on their stand, they then requested for Navy Admiral Ruben Domingo. And so we briefed Ambassador Cimatu and Commodore Tirso Danga," who took over the negotiations at about 7 p.m, he said.

Domingo was praised by Navy Lt. (sg) Antonio Trillanes for his anticorruption crusade while he was the head of Naval Education and Training Command. .

Biazon said that they also convinced the soldiers to classify their demands into three categories—doable, mid-term and longterm—to facilitate the negotiations.

Palace asked me ...

From page A1

COPIES of Honasan's National Recovery Program are all over the alleged operations centers at Oakwood of the young mutineers and presented to the media by AFP Chief of Staff Abaya and Defense Secretary Reyes.

JOAN BONDOC

from "emissaries from Malacañang" whom he said were "fraternity brothers"—namely, Deputy Director Rene Velasco of the Office of the President and Housing Authority chief Mike Defensor.

"They said that on the authority of the President, they sought me out so that we could help," Honasan said.

He said he asked how he could be of help when Interior Secretary Jose Lina had already accused him of masterminding the mutiny. The officials then told him, he said, that "(they) have the assurance of the President."

Honasan said he then called up Senators Vicente Sotto III and Rodolfo Biazon to help out. He then met Chief of Staff Roberto Tiglao, Presidential Management Staff Silvestre Afable III, Velasco and Defensor at the Mandarin hotel in Makati City.

Then, he, Velasco and Defensor went to the Hotel Intercontinental to meet with Biazon and Sotto.

"I put this on record to show you that notwithstanding the fact that these were opposition senators, we took it upon ourselves to help despite the pressures that were being directed against us, trial by publicity, insinuations," he said.

Breakthrough

He said their intervention was the "breakthrough" in the stand off, as the junior officers agreed to meet with them in the Oakwood hotel before the 5 p.m. deadline set by Malacañang.

Honasan said that "Velasco and Defensor were taking notes and corresponding directly with the President of the Republic."

"My colleagues for the past 10th, 11th, and 12th Congresses have entrusted me with the undisputed and uncontested chairmanship of the Senate committee on peace, reunification and reconciliation. How can I betray this trust and face all of you and our people and participate in another extra-constitutional exercise, which to me is a thing of the past," Honasan said.

Rehabilitated

A former Army colonel who figured in several failed coup attempts in the late 1980s, the senator stressed that he even has a "diploma legislated by all of you and previous Congresses to show that I have already been rehabilitated."

He then defended the rebel soldiers as public servants who were only acting in the country's best interests. "These young officers are not my soldiers, they are your soldiers, they are soldiers of the Filipino people."

Throughout the day, it was uncertain whether Honasan, whom Lina had already accused of plotting the mutiny even before the probe could get going, would actually show up in the Senate.

Honasan finally agreed to deliver his speech after Senate President Franklin Drilon assured him that Malacañang officials would not order his arrest without a warrant issued by a court.

Senate position

In a news briefing before Honasan's privilege speech, Drilon said he had relayed to Malacañang the Senate position—that under the law Honasan cannot be arrested without a warrant issued by a court.

"I have relayed this position that we have taken to (Executive) Secretary Bert Romulo, (Presidential Legal Adviser) Avelino Cruz, Secretary Lina, PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, and they have all agreed that in fact they should now proceed with the gathering of evidence and file the appropriate charges in court if there is sufficient evidence," Drilon told reporters.

Drilon said that to his knowledge, criminal charges have not been filed against Honasan and there were no outstanding warrants.

But Drilon said the Senate will "respect the processes of the courts if a warrant is issued and I am sure Sen. Honasan can defend himself in court."

Public document

Honasan defended his National Recovery Program, which some officials are using as the basis for linking him to the mutineers.

The NRP, he said, was an open and public document outlining his proposed platform of government that he was offering to the united opposition.

He said there was nothing subversive about the NRP.

He said it was only a "coincidence" that a group from the Guardians and nongovernmental organizations supporting his NRP went to Buendia on Sunday to push for the program.

Defensor sent a statement to the Senate denying Honasan's claim that he called him on behalf of the President to request him to intercede in the crisis.

"The President never directed nor ordered me to call the senator for any assistance," he said. "Sen. Honasan did what he did on his own volition. I did what I did as a concerned citizen hoping and praying for a peaceful resolution of the conflict."

Defensor said he called up two members of Honasan's staff, lawyers Paul Redublo and Jess Fernandez, "as a fraternity brod and concerned citizen."

Defensor said he and Honasan exchanged calls on Sunday morning, and said the senator called him up in the afternoon and "told me if he has my assurance that he will not be arrested if he goes to Oakwood and try to convince the young officers."

He said he then checked with the President. She told him he could accompany Honasan to Oakwood.

After Honasan's speech, Sotto attested to his colleague's innocence. "I did not observe—in words or in deed—nor did I feel in any way, that Senator Honasan influenced, controlled, manipulated or ordered the actions and reactions of these soldiers."

"Neither did I get the impression that these soldiers were taking orders from or in any way being controlled and manipulated by Sen. Honasan," Sotto said.

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PRE-OAKWOOD BUDGET

GMA seeks better pay for soldiers

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is set to ask Congress to approve a P5.8-billion increase in the pay of soldiers in the proposed 2004 national budget which she will submit next month.

Rep. Rolando Andaya, the chair of the House committee on appropriations, confirmed that the provision would be in the President's proposed budget but stressed that it had nothing to do with the mutiny staged by renegade soldiers last Sunday.

He said it would be a way of fully implementing Republic Act No. 9166 passed in 2001 which provided for just such an increase, creating a new salary scale for officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces.

The law brought the basic pay of a private up to the same level as that of a new public school teacher and a police officer I, that is, a uniform P8,605.

It was signed by Ms Macapagal on June 7, 2002 after what Andaya said was 13 years of intensive lobbying by the military.

Andaya said the decision to include the increased salaries for soldiers in the 2004 budget was made as early as last year.

"We are just obeying the law here, and that law requires us to set aside funds for the new pay scale of our soldiers. It has nothing to do with the coup and everything to do with the law," he said.

Andaya said soldiers would be the last batch of government employees to receive a pay increase in the program that was started in the late 1980s with the passage of the landmark Salary Standardization Law.

He said that because of "money woes," the government had decided to implement the new salary scale for soldiers in three tranches: 20 percent in 2002, 50 percent in 2003 and 100 percent next year.

This year, Congress appropriated P2.9 billion, representing 50 percent of the enlisted men's pay hike.

The P5.81 billion represents the annual cost of the full implementation of what the law provided.

Andaya said the basic pay would be augmented by a host of allowances and other incentives.

Under the law, a military general's monthly base pay will be increased from P19,173 to P25,000; lieutenant general, from P18,596 to P21,934; major general, from P17,671 to P21,090; brigadier general, from P17,094 to P20,279;

Colonel, from P16,170 to P19,499; lieutenant colonel, from P15,477 to P18,749; major, from P14,900 to P18,020; captain, from P14,322 to P17,334; first lieutenant, from P13,860 to P16,667; second lieutenant, from P13,167 to P16,026;

Chief master sergeant, from P11,492 to P13,714; senior master sergeant, from P10,655 to P12,938; master sergeant, from P9,818 to P12,206; technical sergeant, from P8,893 to P11,515; staff sergeant, from P7,854 to P10,863; sergeant, from P7,393 to P10,248; corporal, from P6,468 to P9,668; private first class, from P6,121 to P9,121; private, from P5,775 to P8,605. *Cynthia D. Balana*

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By Norman Bordadora

THE GOVERNMENT will push for better terms and conditions—including tariff maintenance and even an increase in the tariff of some imports—for developing countries in the ongoing negotiations on agriculture in the World Trade Organization.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. said the agriculture department wants to correct the "gross imbalance" of the commitments to the WTO by developed and developing countries in the Uruguay round of the trade talks.

"Developing countries, including the Philippines, are asking for better terms because their agricultural products are facing unfair competition from heavily subsidized agriculture commodities from the rich developed countries," Lorenzo told reporters.

Lorenzo said the Philippine panel, headed by agriculture officials, is pushing for the maintenance of current tariff levels "unless there are substantial and eventual removal of trade-distorting subsidies and domestic support measures by developed countries."

Lorenzo said the department was also pushing for the imposition of additional duties to counter heavily subsidized imported produce.

Subsidies in agriculture in the developed countries make their agricultural products much cheaper compared to those of developing countries.

Subsidies drastically reduce production costs so that even with high tariff, imported goods from rich countries would still be cheaper than domestic produce.

"We are doing our best to protect the interest of our farmers, especially in the light of past experience that they are being subjected to unfair competition from agricultural products from other countries," Lorenzo said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, July 30, 2003
17th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Ex 34:29-35
Gospel: Mt 13:44-46

Jesus said to the crowds, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. The one who finds it buries it again; and so happy is he, that he goes and sells everything he has, in order to buy that field.

"Again the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who is looking for fine pearls. Once he has found a pearl of exceptional quality, he goes away, sells everything he has and buys it."

Commentary

How does one explain people like Mother Teresa, or Francis of Assisi, or the countless men and women, both lay and ordained, who have committed their lives to serving others without seemingly wanting anything in return? It isn't easy doing that. The only explanation one can give is really that which is found in today's gospel reading, namely, that the Mother Teresa's and Francis's of this world are persons who have found their "pearl of great price," and their "treasure hidden in the field." These are individuals who have searched long and hard for that one thing that could give them the greatest joy, the greatest certainty, the most profound peace, and have found it in something that the world will not always look at with understanding and comprehension. But that's precisely the logic of it all—there's none, that is, except for the logic of the human heart which has found it's "one sure thing." Many of us spend our lives searching for it, sadly, many fail to find it, because we tend to look for it in all the wrong places: in money, wealth, power, ambition, popularity, control and greatness. At times, before we discover that these things are really passing and impermanent, it's already too late. We must look deep inside us and discover in there, our pearl of great price, and our treasure hidden in the field. Otherwise, as St. Augustine once said, "our hearts will remain restless, " that is of course, "until they find their rest" in God.

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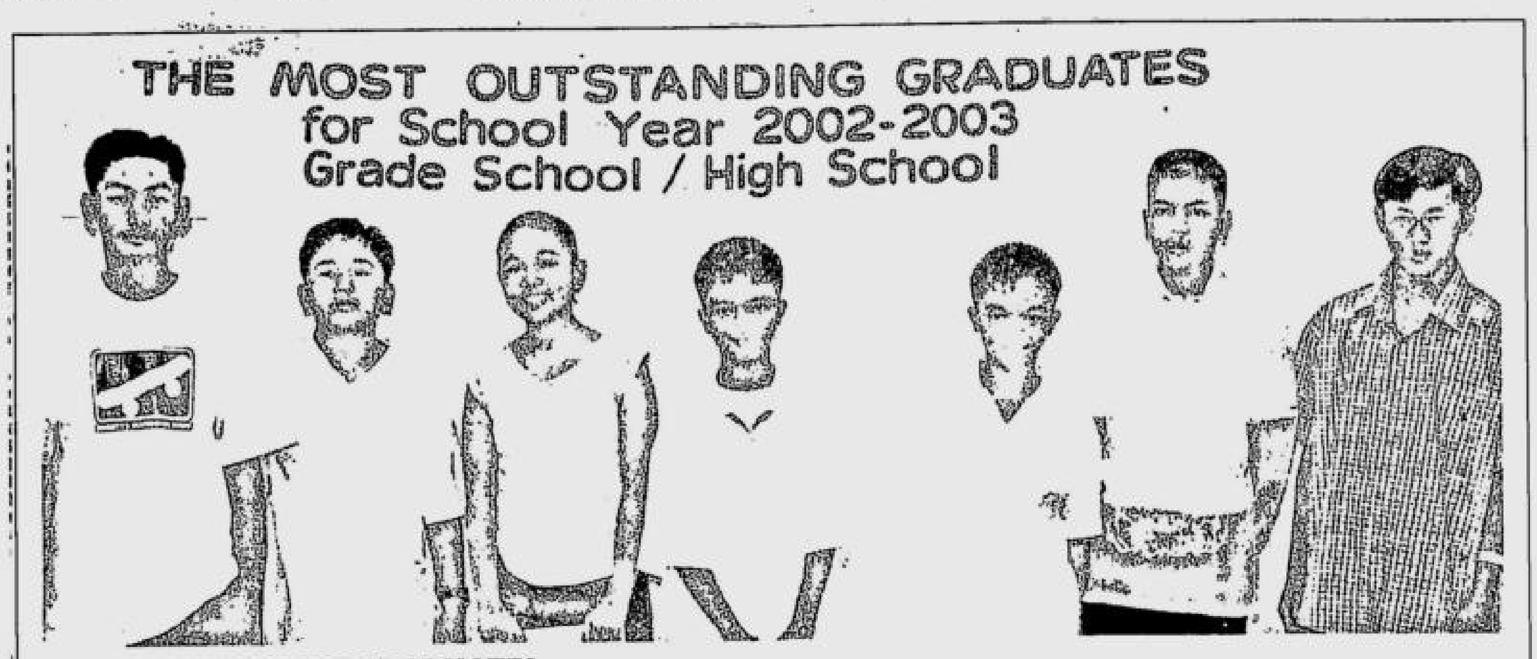
THE MOST OUTSTANDING GRADUATES
for School Year 2002-2003
Grade School / High School

MOST OUTSTANDING GRADUATES
The most outstanding graduates of the PDI Newsboy Foundation for the school year 2002-2003 in the grade school and high school categories pose for posterity during the recent awarding at the PDI. They are (from left): Marvin del Rosario of La Immaculada School in Pasig (high school, Metro-Manila); Eduardo Clavero II of Pilot Elementary School in Pagadian City (elementary, Vis/Min); Eddessa Clavero of Zamboanga del Sur National High School in Pagadian City (high school, Vis/Min); Jericho Luna and Jerhome Luna of P. Gomez Elementary School in Manila (elementary, Metro-Manila); Glen Fabia of Pili Central School in Camarines Sur (elementary, Luzon) and David Calica of St. Louis Boys High School in Baguio City (high school, Luzon). They received their awards from Inquirer officials led by chair Marixi Prieto and president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

WILL SHE OR WON'T SHE?

GMA won't be baited into baring her plans

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo continues to refuse to be baited into making a categorical statement about her plans for 2004.

"I know very well that the electoral issues of 2004 will soon heat up, but I will neither be dragged into these issues nor be distracted in my course," the President said in a statement yesterday.

"I will not be distracted by the partisan agenda that will be pursued by others," she said.

Her official spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, has been similarly unhelpful to those wanting a more categorical statement about the President's electoral plans.

Taking a cue from his boss, Bunye has a new answer to queries if the President would run next year: "I invoke my right to remain silent."

Whereas before, Bunye would assert his belief that the President would not change her mind about her Dec. 30 announcement that she would not stand in 2004.

The President defended her continued silence about her plans for 2004 during her State of the Nation Address to a joint assembly of Congress on Monday.

Senate President Franklin Drilon noted that the President did not say goodbye when it should have been her last Sona as her term ends on June 30 next year.

Drilon took it as an indication that she will run.

"The SONA is but a renewal of my vow of service, performance, results and moving forward to a brighter future," the President said.

She said people's hopes for a better life must be "buoyed and sustained by an unfading vision."

Ms Macapagal said it was time to go back to the most basic priorities—creating jobs, waging peace, and fighting poverty, corruption, terrorism and illegal drugs.

Asked if the President will now allow the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats to choose its standard bearer, Bunye said: "Let me just read the statement of the President. I adopt her statement."

He also could not say if Ms Macapagal, by refusing to engage in partisan politics, would resign as chair of Lakas to enable the ruling party to prepare for the 2004 elections. Jose Ma. Rufino, the President's adviser on political affairs, said there was no need for the President to resign.

Asked if he thought the President would run as Drilon and others believe, Rufino said: "I have no opinion."

US lauds Gloria for handling of coup crisis

WASHINGTON—The United States on Monday firmly endorsed President Macapagal-Arroyo and applauded her handling of a failed military uprising over the weekend.

Close to 300 rebel soldiers booby-trapped Manila's financial district and briefly trapped foreigners and diplomats in a 20-hour standoff with the government, demanding Ms Macapagal's resignation.

State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said the United States was "pleased" that the crisis ended peacefully.

"We support President Arroyo's handling of the crisis, which demonstrated that the Government of the Philippines is committed to the rule of law and the democratic process," he said.

"No one should be under any doubt that we support the legitimate, civilian government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo." *AFP*

Aussies in peril in RP, travel advisory warns

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

RUTH Pearce

THE AUSTRALIAN government issued a new travel advisory yesterday, telling its citizens here that "threats against Australians and Australian interests in the Philippines are high."

"Australians in the Philippines, including in Manila, should exercise extreme caution," said a travel advice issued by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The advisory came two days after Australian ambassador to the Philippines Ruth Pearce and 10 other Australians were held for six hours by rebel soldiers who occupied the Oakwood apartments at the Makati business district in a failed mutiny on Sunday.

The advisory was issued even as Pearce had expressed confidence in the country's peace and order situation despite the incident, telling reporters in Manila on Monday that she was "happy with the security that we have here."

The Australian government said while the Philippine government was committed to improving security and combating terrorist groups, "the risk of further terrorist attacks and kidnappings remains and Australians travelling in or to the Philippines need to be aware of the high level of risk."

It advised its citizens to exercise extreme caution particularly in commercial and public areas known to be frequented by foreigners such as, but not limited to, shopping malls, clubs, hotels, restaurants, bars, schools, places of worship, outdoor recreation events or tourist areas and when using public transport.

"Australians should be alert to the dangers of kidnapping throughout the Philippines including in Manila," the advisory said.

Australians were also told to avoid demonstrations and street protests in Metro Manila and other urban areas.

The advisory specifically instructed Australians to defer nonessential travel to Mindanao, and consider leaving Mindanao. Australians are also advised against all travel to the Zamboanga Peninsula and the Sulu Archipelago, including centers such as Basilan and Jolo.

The Australian embassy in Manila recently moved to secure premises at the nearby RCBC Plaza, after being forced to close for more than a month last year because of a terrorist threat.

Prime Minister John Howard officially opened the new embassy offices during his visit to the Philippines less than two weeks ago.

In the middle of Howard's visit, Indonesian bomb expert Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi escaped from the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame, prompting the Australian government to immediately issue an advisory warning of possible terrorist attacks. Al-Ghozi belonged to the Jeemah Islamiya regional terror group believed to be behind the resort bombings in Bali, Indonesia which killed Australian holiday makers.

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SCI Valves are ISO 9002 certified and are used extensively on waterworks, flood control irrigation, and waste water projects. Among these are the Lower Agusan Development Project - Irrigation Component, the Pampanga Delta Development Project - Irrigation Component of the National Irrigation Administration, and the West Manggahan Flood Control Project of DPWH.

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Ramos: It could have been prevented

THE SOLDIERS' mutiny last Sunday could have been prevented if the administration had maintained direct and periodic contacts with low-ranking officers and ordinary soldiers, former President Ramos said yesterday.

Direct contact with the common soldier would ensure that the government can listen firsthand to their complaints, Ramos said before flying to Tokyo for a conference on globalization.

Ramos, who was successively the constabulary chief, Armed Forces vice chief of staff and defense secretary before becoming President, said that he periodically consulted soldiers, got to know their problems firsthand and took steps to resolve them during his term.

At the height of the mutineers' stakeout at the Oakwood Premiere hotel in Makati, Ramos said all military officers—incumbent or retired, junior or senior—must feel "a sense of responsibility for what happened."

He said the failed mutiny should send a strong message to the Philippine Military Academy that it must not suffer "any more stains or its reputation through actions of this nature by its alumni."
Jerome Aning

Asean ministers want to see free Suu Kyi

FOREIGN ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations want to talk to detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi when they visit Myanmar to press for her release, and they want to meet her out of jail.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said a delegation of Asean ministers led by Indonesia was being mulled to visit Myanmar and press the military junta to release Suu Kyi, who was arrested on May 30 for the third time in 14 years.

2 Taiwanese boats detained for poaching escape

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Two Taiwanese fishing boats eluded the chase of Philippine naval ships and returned home Tuesday, after escaping from a port where they had been detained on charges of illegal fishing.

The boats with five crewmen fled the port of Aparri, Cagayan before dawn on Monday, seizing on the turmoil caused by a weekend military uprising. The mutiny ended late Sunday in Manila following a 19-hour standoff.

The two boats made a detour to seas south of China to elude the chasing navy ships, Su Ming-sheng, one of the boat's captains, told reporters after docking at Chengkung port in southern Taiwan.

The two fishing boats were detained in early May on charges of illegal fishing, he said.

Last week, four other detained Taiwanese fishing boats fled Aparri after a typhoon hit the area. The boats returned to Tungkang port in Southern Taiwan last weekend.

Seas between Taiwan and the Philippines are rich fishing grounds for tuna, but they are claimed by both governments as territorial waters.

The detained fishermen have complained that Taiwanese authorities made no effort to seek their release. But Taiwanese officials said the Philippine authorities refused to negotiate with them.

Taiwan's chief fisheries official, Hu Sing-Hwa, said Tuesday he still hoped the Philippines would be willing to talk about a fishing agreement, and urged Taiwanese fishermen to exercise restraint.

"Our fishermen should not enter the Philippines' territorial waters," Hu said. However, he criticized the judiciary in the Philippines for its slow progress in handling the Taiwanese fishermen's cases. *Reuters*

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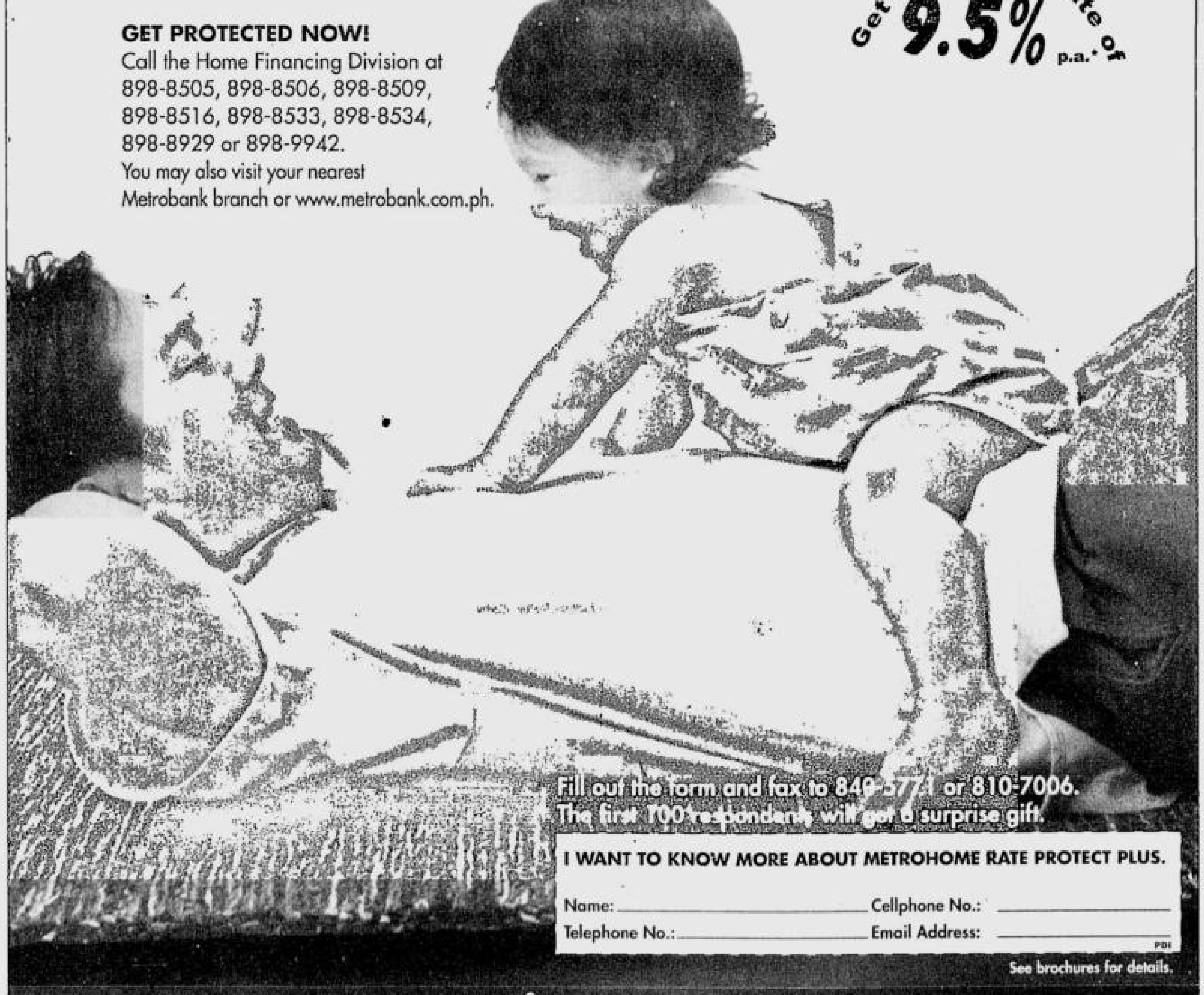

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OPINION

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Short-term

EDITORIAL

EVERYONE anticipated at least a hint, if not an outright announcement, of her political plans for 2004 when President Macapagal-Arroyo delivered her State of the Nation Address last Monday. When there was none, her political allies and foes alike sought to find it in her body language or the things she did not say.

"I noticed that she did not say goodbye. She did not say it was her last Sona," said Senate President Franklin Drilon. "I think there is more than an even chance that she will run." Former Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez, spokesperson of the administration party Lakas-CMD, said that by not saying goodbye the President indicated that she might change her plan, announced in December last year, not to seek a regular term. Alvarez also noted that Ms Macapagal talked about doing "everything to make sure the future will be kind to (her granddaughter) Mikaela and her generation," and that was something she could do best if she remained in the presidency, he added.

Opposition leaders like Senators Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. considered it significant that at one point the President spoke in four different regional dialects. When she did that, they said, that was a sure sign she was running in 2004.

If this were all the country's lawmakers wanted to see or hear, they didn't have to wait for the Sona to discern Ms Macapagal's plans. A President who goes to the remotest areas of the country to inaugurate school buildings and other small infrastructure projects does not look like someone who is preparing to be put out to pasture.

And yet her Sona seemed to carry a contrary message. It may have been full of hope and resolve, as some senators have pointed out. It may have talked about building a better and brighter future for future generations. But it laid out no long-term vision for the nation. Instead the President limited her speech to explaining her program of government for the remaining 11 months of her presidency, starting with how she planned to deal with the young military officers who had launched a short-lived mutiny over the weekend and the problems that pushed them into such extreme measure.

Ms Macapagal stuck to her tough stance against the mutineers, saying that the government would apply the "full force of the law" against them and send them to jail. At the same time, she announced the creation of two commissions to investigate their allegations that military officials were behind this year's bombings in Davao and to look into the causes of the mutiny.

Beyond these measures to address the latest episode of military adventurism, Ms Macapagal said she would pursue the war against terrorism, against corruption, against disease and against drugs, which she described as "the greatest menace facing our country today." Then she announced the resumption of peace talks with the two major insurgent groups in the country, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the New People's Army.

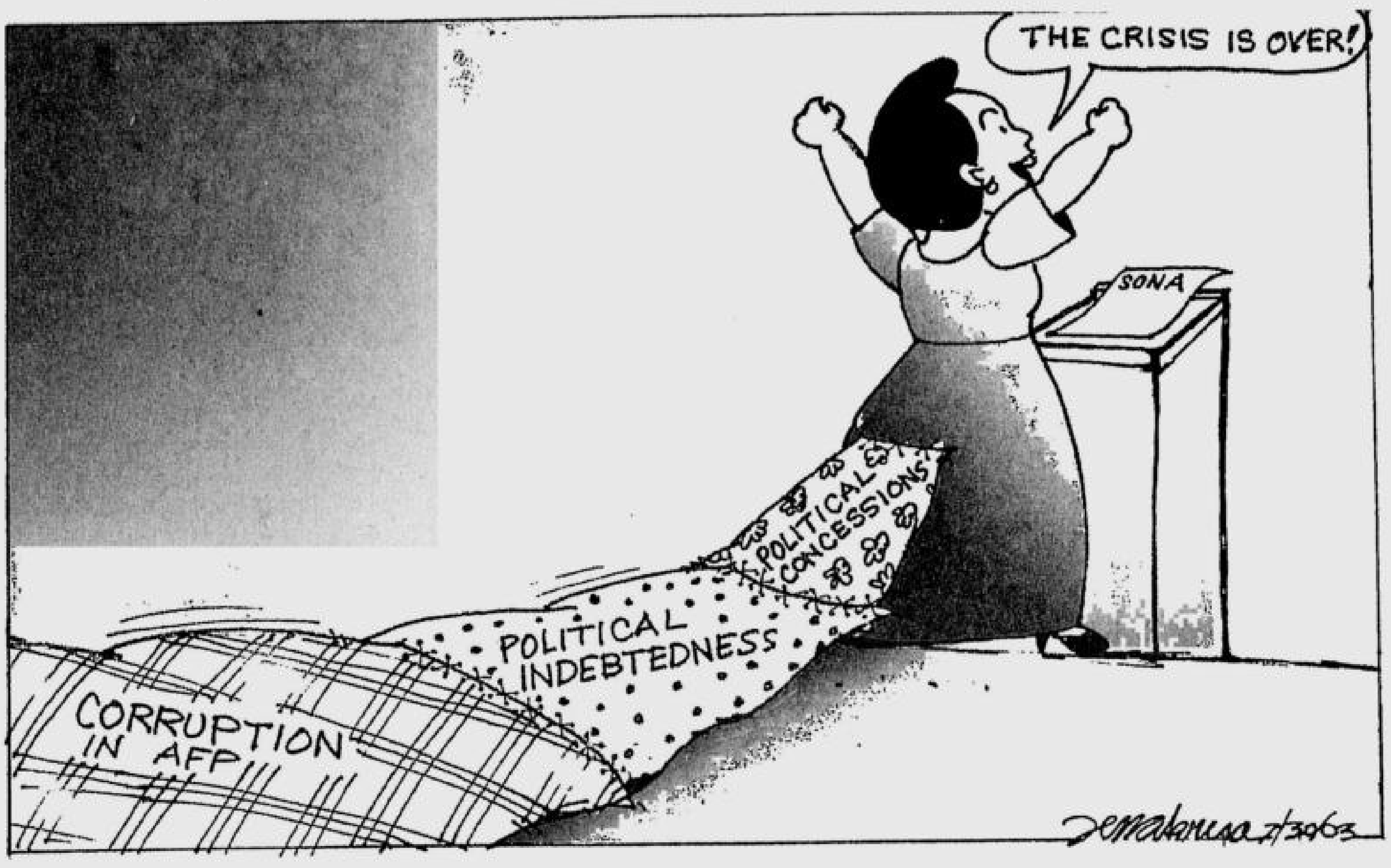
If the Sona defines the President's agenda for the rest of her term, then the focus of her administration's efforts will be on doing what can be done in the limited time left to it, like forging peace agreements with rebel groups, and doing things that cannot be postponed, like stopping the trade in illegal drugs. There are no grandiose plans for the future, just a program of action addressing the problems that cry for immediate resolution. It is a realistic, short-term program which, if carried out with some notable success, may yet give her the longest term under our Constitution.

Credibility crisis

FOREIGN COMMENT

BRITISH Prime Minister Tony Blair has assured that he is not thinking of resigning despite Tory opposition leader Iain Duncan Smith's demands. But the David Kelly affair has, in every way, been very painful for Blair and his government. Blair has no reason to resign just because Kelly committed suicide, the opposition has demanded it or that a certain part of his speech was false. But even before the war, he was accused of being Bush's lapdog.

Blair finds himself in the middle of a personal credibility crisis. It is lucky for him that both his own government colleagues and opposition leader Duncan Smith appear not to be up to the job of succeeding him. *Hufvudstadsbladet, Helsinki, Finland*



What kind of officers is the PMA producing?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT are we producing at the Philippine Military Academy? The PMA is an elite military academy modeled after West Point in Annapolis. It trains brilliant young men and women from all over the Philippines. "The best and the brightest," chosen after rigorous examinations, to become professional, career military officers. The ambition of many young men is to be a PMA cadet; the longing of many young women is to marry a PMA graduate. After graduation, the PMA is supposed to have molded them into upright, honorable, loyal, responsible, well-educated, brave soldiers sworn to protect country and Constitution, president and people.

But what has the PMA produced lately? A succession of disloyal rebel soldiers ready to depose duly constituted authorities and sow death and chaos in the country. Batch after batch of PMA graduates routinely take up arms against the government. From the batches of Gringo Honasan to Antonio Trillanes Jr., it is as if loyalty to flag and country has not been taught them. In the latest mutiny, the leaders came from just two batches, classes 1995 and 1997. It seems loyalty to one's class has been made stronger by their training but not loyalty to country.

If these are the products of our elite military academy, then something is terribly wrong with it. Is it the curriculum? Is it the instructors? Is it the culture inside the academy? Is it the very strong bonds that grow among the cadets while inside its august halls. Whatever is wrong, the PMA needs immediate repairs.

* * *

It is not only the PMA that needs overhauling. The Police Academy, too, needs help. Why are there so many rogue cops and soldiers? It seems like moral upbringing does not have much emphasis in both the PMA and the Police Academy.

Gangs of kidnappers, bank robbers, carnappers, protectors of drug and gambling lords, petty extortionists in the uniforms of traffic cops: rogue cops and soldiers are invariably among their members. It is a standing joke that our policemen are very fast in responding to bank robberies. They're always the first at the scene of the crime.

My grandparents used to relate that in the old days, just one Constabulary soldier going to a barrio was enough to quell criminality in any given place. During my own parents' younger days, the friendly police patrolman with his squeaky shoes was a soothing sound in the dark neighborhoods at night. And until recently, the blinking lights and sirens of police patrol cars were a reassuring sight in a quarrelsome community. Not anymore.

It is ironic that law-abiding citizens are now more afraid of policemen, but the criminals themselves are not. When my daughter's car was stolen at SM City years ago and she reported it to the police, she was told they would come to our house to interview her. She was immediately scared. "They may be coming to case our house to be robbed later," she said. Her fears were, of course, exaggerated. But this shows you how much the credibility of policemen have fallen in the eyes of the people.

A newspaper cartoonist once had his car stolen in Manila after he drew an editorial cartoon satirizing the Manila Police. He asked the help of our police reporters who tapped their underground sources for information.

"That's the work of the police," their sources reported. "They're sending a message to you."

The cartoonist went to the WPD chief of police, who promised to help.

The very next day, the cartoonist found his car parked in the very same spot where he had parked it days earlier.

We still haven't forgotten the time when then PNP Chief Panfilo Lacson ordered the return to their rightful owners of stolen cars that had been recovered but were being used for themselves by cops in the anti-carnapping units. The policemen had kept the recovered stolen vehicles and had been using them for months, even years, as if they owned them. The owners thought they had been irretrievably lost. Imagine their joy when their cars were returned to them after Lacson gave the cops a deadline.

What does this prove and what am I driving at? That the line dividing the law enforcers from the criminals is being obliterated. That cops drift from one side of the dividing line to the other like Jekyll and Hyde characters. That something is very wrong with our police force. And that something must be very wrong with the Police Academy that trains them.

Besides the two independent commissions that President Macapagal had created to investigate the Davao bombings and the recent military mutiny, perhaps, she should form another to look into what could be wrong with the PMA and the Police Academy.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE:

Wife to husband always engrossed in his newspaper during breakfast: I wish I were a newspaper.

Husband: Why did you say that?

Wife: So you will touch and handle me every day.

Husband: Oh, I wish you were a newspaper, too.

Wife: Why?

Husband: So there's a new one every day.

Rhyme and reason

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE CRISIS is over, but many questions remain unanswered. Foremost of them is how the coup attempt could have taken place in the first place.

We haven't had one in a long time—the last, and most serious, was in December 1989, which was well over a decade ago. Since then, several things have happened. The members of the RAM and YOU suffered a fate worse than torture and indoctrination, which distracted them from their single-minded purpose, and that was to grow old and comfortable. Gringo Honasan became a senator, several others held government posts or prospered in their rackets. "Our dreams will never die" was their motto. Yes, but like old soldiers, they fade away.

Alongside that, the culture of civilian supremacy, which had held sway before martial law, took over and reasserted itself. That was far less dramatic than the change of fortunes of RAM and YOU, but it was just as effective. Probably more so.

I said this before in a column. But what made me glimpse this with the suddenness of Zen enlightenment was a colonel in his 50s contemplating his future aloud one Christmas four or five years ago. He was going to run for congressman in his hometown, he said. He had scouted the opposition, and he was sure he had a chance. He was joining the opposition, which was a strong party in his place, and he had firm commitments from influential people. There and then, I understood the meaning of civilian supremacy. The supremacy didn't owe to the external authority, it owed to its internalization by the very people who stood to threaten it. The natural career trajectory of senior military officials was no longer to "lick 'em," it was to "join 'em."

So what happened to make last weekend's coup attempt possible? I confess it took me completely by surprise. I knew the junior officers and men in the AFP were restive, I didn't know they were restive enough to try something like this. From hindsight, I can only attribute this to a "thought lag." You've been looking at something for some time but you can't quite grasp its significance. I had been writing about the earthshaking changes that had been taking place around us for the last couple of years but I never entirely grasped their implications.

At the surface level, of course, there are the grievances of the rebels themselves. You cannot discount, or trivialize, their compelling nature, or driving force, nor indeed as the idealism of those who acted on them. I got a lot of text messages last weekend from people who said they were touched by the apparent self-sacrifice of the youthful officers who took over Oakwood. I said I had heard their utterances too—I was glued to the radio and TV—and I found them sincere as well. In fact, later, it struck me that Bobi Tiglao for one would recognize the rhetoric. We were saying the same things during our activist days. The only difference being that we never postulated ourselves as saviors. We were not a group trying to rescue the masses from themselves, we were a group trying to help the masses help themselves. That is a crucial difference, but another story altogether.

I did tell someone that, yes, the young junior officers in the military did tend to be idealistic. The problem was the route to becoming old senior officers. The whole promotion process was corruptive. You did not get places by bucking the odds, you did so by playing them.

But whether idealistic or not, whether sincere enough, their grievances themselves were compelling enough to drive people to desperate action. Whatever happens after this, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Angelo Reyes will not remain unscathed. Both will have lost their standing with the public. And their ability to prosecute any war, not to speak of the war against terrorism, will have been impaired.

I don't know which one of them will be called "Mad Bomber" after this. Antonio Trillanes and the other spokespersons for the mutineers did not mince their words last Sunday: "The president is the terrorist," they said. Whether or not the President or her defense secretary or both engineered the bombing of Davao will probably never be proven. But that accusation, made by people who were at least willing to fight, if not die, for it, will hover over them like an albatross.

But that is only part—probably a small part—of why the coup attempt happened last weekend, and why coups have become a reality among us again. The bigger part is the sea change that has happened to us over the last couple of years—to our type of governance, to our political culture, to our very way of life—as a result of one thing: that is, GMA's adoption of George Bush's "war against terrorism."

I have been writing about the paranoia, the conscription by fear, the silencing of dissenting voices it has unleashed. I have been writing about the throwback to martial law, or at least its creeping (and creepy) advance to a police state. I have been writing about the systematic destruction of democracy in the name of keeping the country free from presumed terrorists. But I never pushed the logic to its extreme, to see its true implications.

One of those implications is that it makes a coup possible. That is so because it has effectively removed the barriers to a coup I mentioned above. It has demolished the concept of civilian supremacy, or more importantly its internalization by military officers. It has encouraged a state-of-siege mentality among the public, beaming as it does the message that the normal condition of this country is a state of war, a state of emergency, against an unseen enemy. It has projected the military as the country's savior again.

That is a coup waiting to happen.

(To be concluded)

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Insights from the Oakwood mutiny

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

LAST SUNDAY'S failed military mutiny depicted the true state of the nation more eloquently than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address did.

Although the rebellion staged by a group of disgruntled young military officers was quashed within 18 hours of the rebel seizure of Oakwood Hotel in the heart of Makati's business center, it unleashed a new blizzard of uncertainty over the economic and political horizons and over the continuity of the Macapagal administration beyond next year's presidential elections.

The mutiny threw the spotlight on the infirmity of the democratic institutions restored by the 1986 People Power and the vulnerability of the economy to political shocks and turbulence.

First, it revealed that the virus of military adventurism and interventionism still runs deep within the military establishment. The quashing of the coup attempt should not be a cause for celebration. It should rather be a cause of concern over further new impulses of military adventurism.

Second, the Makati attack showed the shortcomings of the Macapagal administration in crisis management. The rebellion highlighted the weakness of the Macapagal administration to respond effectively to defend the government against armed attempts to seize state power. It underlined an intelligence failure that prevented the government from preempting the attack in Makati, even though troop movements—albeit of small-force size—had already been sighted moving into Metro Manila days before the rebels occupied Oakwood Hotel.

Fortunately, for the administration, it survived its first armed challenge from soldiers not because of its dynamic response but because of the ineptitude of the coup makers; the rebellion was sloppily planned; the rebels did not do their homework. It is not hard to see why their rebellion fizzled.

Obviously, the rebels mounted the reckless action without the necessary force to attack government centers, hoping to tie the government in a long standoff and expecting such a stalemate would encourage other units of the Armed Forces to join the rebellion. Their objective, commensurate to the number of their troops, was limited—a business center, hoping that it would destroy business (both local and foreign) confidence and create uncertainty over the administration's ability to manage economic recovery and even survive the last few months of its term.

The rebels were disappointed that their mutiny did not catch fire inside the military and did not receive the support of the senior military leadership which cast its lot with the government.

It is clear that grievances alone are not enough to create a bandwagon inside the military. The grievances centered mainly on Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' alleged micro-management style and on military corruption which they alleged allows, among others, the diversion of AFP weapons to Islamic rebels in Mindanao. As the coups in the 1980s and People Power II demonstrated, it takes more than grievances centered on corruption inside the military to mobilize widespread public support, as well as military support, for a bid to topple the government.

That the grievances were not addressed by the defense department before they exploded into a mutiny shows the failure of the military grievance mechanism. While these grievances should not be ignored, they are not sufficient grounds to stage a rebellion and overthrow the ruling administration.

The rebels also misread the public mood. They failed to draw the extensive support they had hoped to get from the civilian population, which was not prepared to back another military intervention to topple the government too soon after the military defection from the Estrada administration in January 2001.

Apart from their grievances, the rebel leaders cited another flimsy reason for their rebellion. They said they saw signs that President Macapagal was moving toward declaring martial law to extend her stay in office. They wanted her to step down and called for the resignation of Defense Secretary Reyes. But these are political demands that went beyond the scope of their catalogue of grievances.

For supposedly intelligent young officers who are said to be the "best and the brightest" of Philippine Military Academy Class 1995, their claim that the President intends to prolong her term by declaring martial law reflects faulty reading of the political climate in the country. By such claim, the rebels showed political immaturity and amateurish judgments. It showed them as no better than the opposition. They grossly misread the President's political style. They must have been thinking of Ferdinand Marcos' reasons for declaring martial law.

The lack of careful preparation for the mutiny ensured its failure. PMA alumni are supposed to have been trained to go to war not to lose but to win. The rebels failed to consider carefully the terrain they were jumping into before embarking on an adventure as treasonous as overthrowing a government. Their demand for the President's resignation gave a political color to their rebellion more than an expression of grievances. They did not even let us know whom they wanted to replace President Macapagal with.

The slipshod preparation of the mutiny should prompt the PMA to review whether it is producing effective military leaders. The manifesto of the rebels reeks with messianic slogans. It takes more than being driven by messianic complex for coups to succeed and to show that a junta is a better method of providing good leadership than democratic elections.

Quite a reception

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN THE 10 days that they were in the country, they experienced a typhoon, a landslide and an armed mutiny. While their prime minister was here on an official visit, a convicted international terrorist, implicated in the tragic Bali bombing that killed more than 100 Australians, strolled out of his jail cell and remains at large. To top it off, Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce was trapped inside Oakwood during the Sunday Magdalo mutiny.

Despite this series of catastrophic events, however, a group of visiting Australian parliamentarians, together with parliamentarians from Tonga, Kiribati and Papua New Guinea, say they are convinced that the Philippines remains a "safe" place, and that they will assure their constituents and colleagues of this fact when they return to Australia.

"The people are very generous, open and hospitable," remarked Harry Quick, federal member for Franklin of the Australian Parliament. John Hyde, a member of the Western Australia Legislative Assembly, was enthused no end by his week-long stay in Boracay, which he visited before the study tour commenced. Most of all, says Kelly Hoare, MP for Charlton, they were able to go around the country and talk with people not just in Manila, but in Leyte, Cebu, Iloilo and Guimaras.

Among their memorable experiences during the study tour, organized locally by the Philippine NGO Council, were visits to Concepcion and Ajuy towns in Iloilo, where they heard young and dynamic mayors explain their projects seeking to integrate reproductive health and family planning concerns with environmental preservation and resource allocation. Quick was also quite impressed after his visit to an urban poor neighborhood in Malabon, where the reproductive health service organization Likhaan maintains a base community. "I ended up ankle-deep in mud," remarks Quick, "but I saw clearly that despite their abject poverty, the people are determined to change things themselves."

* * *

SO IMPRESSED were the visiting parliamentarians with what they saw and heard during their visit that they were inspired to issue a statement on the reproductive health situation in the country.

Their central message: "Australian aid must be more appropriately targeted through NGOs and LGUs who have been so successful in addressing the challenges of population, development, reproductive health and the environment."

Australia, through AusAid, sends a yearly average of A$61 million to the Philippines, they said. But most of the amount goes to defense and security projects, especially in Mindanao. After their tour, the lawmakers said they were convinced more of the aid money must go "directly to NGOs and communities where it could make such a big difference in people's lives."

In addition to taking a sharper, closer look at where Australian aid money goes, the visiting officials also urged the Australian government to "bridge the gap" created by "the US decision to withdraw funding for the distribution of contraceptives in the Philippines."

* * *

"WE are pleased to see how the Philippines, particularly at the local level, is addressing the serious challenges in population growth and development issues and the Group is committed to supporting, cooperating and collaborating at all levels to make further advances in these areas," the lawmakers, members of the Australian All Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, said.

"We support the right of Filipino women to be better educated on issues of reproductive health and for them to be fully involved in decisions on these issues. We encourage the Philippine government to continue to promote and support reproductive health and population issues with appropriate legislative measures," the statement concludes.

This seems a remote possibility, though, since the President, in Monday's Sona, seems to have slammed the door, quite forcefully, on legislation that seeks to protect and promote the reproductive health and rights of our citizens. In fact, she even virtually called Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and the members of Congress behind the Reproductive Health Care Act of being "sneaks," practically accusing them of "smuggling" abortion by way of legislation!

It seems the visiting lawmakers from Australia and the Pacific, after just over a week's visit, have gained more understanding of and insight into the reproductive health situation in this country than our President, who even dares to proudly call herself a woman and an economist.

* * *

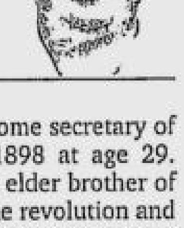
FLYING into Manila Sunday morning from Iloilo together with Senate President Franklin Drilon who joined them there, the visiting lawmakers also heard bits and pieces of the crisis brewing in Makati. Though they were booked into the Manila Hotel, they confessed to feeling quite apprehensive, not knowing how long the stand-off would continue and how it would end.

Over breakfast yesterday, the relief on their faces was quite palpable, but their praise for the people they met around the country seemed quite genuine and heartfelt. A state representative from Tasmania, which is itself one of the poorer areas in Australia, vowed that when he reached home, he would talk to the teachers and students in his area and plan "some sort of linkage with a local school in Iloilo or Cebu" to help the children he had met there.

Itself beset with population challenges, such as a falling fertility level, the over-concentration of people in five big cities, and environmental degradation, Australia seems ready for a relationship based on people-to-people sharing with the Philippines, believing, as the visitors said, "restoring communities and empowering people costs a lot less than letting a country fall apart."

Faces of youth in rebellion, now and in the past

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

THE FIRST human face we connected with the so-called "exercise" in Makati last Sunday was that of Lieutenant(sg) Trillanes. Friends, both women and gays, were swooning over him, forgetting history. Wasn't Gringo Honasan media's darling of 1986? Look at him now. Trillanes was articulate but could not get his message across to the media pack that descended on Glorietta. Media, which should be a channel of information, was not listening to any voice but theirs. For example, he declared that it was not a coup, that the objective was to expose corruption in the military, particularly the sale of government arms and ammunition to the enemy by top brass. Yet many till late kept referring to it as a coup. One anchor asked that their gripes be brought to the "proper forum," blind to the bare fact that this was exactly what Trillanes and company were doing. These men were desperate to speak to the nation but their voice, their message was twisted and garbled by media.

One of my reflections on the events of last Sunday concerned the relative youth of the "mutineers." I was distressed that their idealism, their love of country was branded as "misguided." Historians see present events with lens that go beyond our short memories. We should ask, where we would be today if our heroes did not act when they did? Where would we be today if heroes threw away their idealism for comfort and security?

Gregorio Aglipay, born 1860, ordained 1889 joined the revolution in 1896 at age 33. Appointed military chaplain in 1898 at 38. He could have stayed in some parish somewhere in the Philippines minding his own business. It was a quiet life yet he saw the signs of the times and made a choice. That's what made him a hero. Baldomero Aguinaldo, born 1869, rose to become: town executive, register of deeds, and even justice of the peace in Cavite. Yet he chose to join the revolution of 1896 at age 27. He had a bureaucratic career waiting for him, he was made, yet he chose to fight bravely and rose to become secretary of war of the First Republic in 1898 at age 29. Crispulo Aguinaldo, born 1864, elder brother of Emilio Aguinaldo, also joined the revolution and died, defending Pasong Santol in Cavite, at age 33. Emilio Aguinaldo, born 1869, capitan municipal of Kawit in 1895 but joined the Katipunan some months later at age 26. He fought bravely and after a string of military victories eventually presided over the declaration of independence from Spain in his home in Kawit in 1898.

He was president of First Republic at age 29 and took on a war against the United States of America, then as now, one of the most powerful nations in the world. What do many Filipinos today, aged 29, have to show? Santiago Alvarez, born 1872, known as "Kidlat na Apoy." He fought in Noveleta 1896 at age 24 and later rose to become general of the Revolution. Andres Bonifacio, born 1863, leader of the Philippine Revolution of 1896 at age 33. Fr. Jose A. Burgos, born 1837, was working on his third Ph.D. but he was no nerd. A rising star in church circles, he was implicated in the Cavite Mutiny of 1872, executed at 35, an inspiration of the generation that made the revolution 24 years later. I am going down the line alphabetically noting that many of our heroes were below 40. We should not forget. We should, in fact, be inspired that most of our patriots were young.

Not everyone chose bloodshed as a means of redemption. There were those who did not lift up a bolo or fire a gun or hurl a stone but used art as a weapon. Jose Rizal, born 1861, executed in 1896 at age 35. He published the great Philippine novel "Noli Me Tangere" in 1887 at age 26 and followed it up with "El Filibusterismo" in 1891 at age 29. Older writers today have yet to surpass this. Julian Felipe, born 1861, composed the National Anthem we sing today way back in 1898 at age 37. Graciano Lopez Jaena, born 1856, wrote the satirical Fray Botod in 1874 at 18, editor of the propaganda paper "Solidaridad" in 1889 at 33. Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo, born 1855, won a silver medal in the 1884 Madrid Exposition for his painting "Christian Virgins Exposed to the Mob" at age 29. Juan Luna, born 1857, got the gold medal in the same exposition for the huge Spoliarium. He was only 27. By besting Spaniards in the Mother Country, these two painters moved Rizal to remark that "genius knows no country." Edilberto Evangelista, born 1862, spurned lucrative job offers and returned to the Philippines from Belgium in 1896. He was arrested, briefly imprisoned and afterwards joined the revolution at age 33. He died in a battle at Zapote in 1897 at 34. Gregoria de Jesus, born 1875, muse of the Katipunan, wife of the Supremo, joined the women's chapter of the Katipunan at 21. Teresa Magbanua, born 1868, joined the revolution in 1898 at age 30 and was dubbed "Joan of Arc of the Visayas." Antonio Luna, born 1866, gave up the quiet security of a government chemist's job to fight in the Filipino-American War in 1899. He was general at 33, assassinated the same year, a victim of political intrigue and the desire to instill discipline in the military.

For every documented hero there are hundreds who are forgotten. Looking at the selective list above, we should realize that the strength and future of this nation lies with its idealistic youth.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@dteneo.edu

Far-reaching implications

COMMENTARY

Raymund Jose G. Quilop

THE REBELLION staged by the 296 soldiers who occupied the Oakwood Luxury Apartments at the heart of Makati's Central Business District the whole of Sunday is by far the shortest coup attempt ever staged by a faction of the Philippine military against a civilian government in the Philippines. But its implications are twofold and far-reaching: first, to Philippine society, more particularly, to the state or government; and second, to what is considered as Philippine democracy.

This action by a small segment of the Philippine military probably validates a long-standing perception that the Philippines is a weak state. It is weak in the sense that the foundation of its authority, particularly for the Macapagal administration, continues to be questioned by certain sectors of society, thereby making it unable to consolidate its hold on power. Without an electoral mandate, the Macapagal administration has spent a great portion of its being in office trying to consolidate its authority, particularly since its legitimacy, although upheld by the Supreme Court of the Philippine, has been questioned by the political elite of the country who are allied with the ousted President Joseph Estrada, by his supporters from the *"masa"* sector, and most recently by a faction from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The Philippine state is regarded as weak in the sense that the state, specifically this administration, remains unable to live up to the basic characteristic of a state—the monopoly of coercive authority. In the words of Max Weber, what makes the state a state is its being the only organization in society that has the right to "to enforce its decisions, using force if necessary." But such right becomes useless or, worse, taken for granted by the very people the state is supposed to govern when it fails to show that it has the capacity to exercise such right.

The decision of the government to extend by another two hours the 5 p.m. deadline it gave the rebel soldiers for their return to the barracks or "face reasonable force" may have given the impression that the government had reservations in actually using force. Worse, some may be thinking of the government as being completely unable to use force at all. While the use of force should of course be the court of last resort, so to speak, and the government should be ready to negotiate with the rebel soldiers, giving a definite deadline without strictly enforcing it gives the impression of a weak government. It would have been better for the government not to have issued a definite time for the soldiers' "surrender." Fortunately, the negotiations positively led to the rebel soldiers returning to barracks. A state or a government which fails to exercise its exclusive right to use force would never be taken seriously by societal elements that would continue to challenge its authority.

But beyond its implications regarding the strength of the Philippine state, the Sunday coup attempt has more fundamental implications to Philippine democracy, a key element of which is the acceptance of the military and, therefore, its subordination to civilian political leadership. The number of soldiers who questioned the authority of the government is relatively small and could rightfully be considered as being a small faction in the military establishment. Yet, their mutiny signifies that there are elements within the Philippine military that continue to question civilian political authority. What makes it more disturbing is the fact that the group is led by young captains, who in a few years time would be occupying higher positions in the AFP and would eventually become key decision makers in the military. While their staying in the service may eventually temper their tendency to be "insubordinate" to the government, the possibility of their taking a similar move could not be totally dismissed.

This latest action by a segment of the Philippine military clearly shows that the Philippines indeed has a "politicized military." Prof. Felipe Miranda of UP points out that a politicized military is one "where a significant proportion of military men consider it appropriate for the military to be involved in overall government and even to be markedly influential in specific concerns involving national security." While the group that occupied Oakwood could not rightfully be considered as a significant proportion of the military, one could not help but think that there may be a bigger number within the AFP that considers it appropriate for the military to be involved in the political affairs of the state. Such perception is well founded given the Philippine experience with what are now known as EDSA I and II, where the military played a significant role in forcing incumbent presidents to step down from Malacañang.

The military's involvement in these two events in Philippine history could be attributed to the way military officers are socialized both within the Philippine Military Academy and in the AFP itself. As an observer of Philippine military affairs notes, the socialization of an army officer corps is a key factor in making an army "willing to subordinate itself to civil authority." An officer corps socialized into accepting its status as being subordinate to civil authority may be relatively expected to respect civilian supremacy and enforce policies formulated by civilian political leaders.

Socialization, however, does not occur only inside the military academy. The political and military environment they become part of after graduation equally shape their mindsets, with civilian political leaders playing a great role in shaping their outlooks. It has been noted, for example, that Mr. Marcos' practice of promoting officers based on their personal loyalty to him encouraged military officers to engage in political maneuvers to endear themselves to him. The involvement of the military in non-military functions has also induced military personnel to become involved in political and policy decision-making functions, thereby greatly contributing to the process of politicizing the military. Such a role civilian political leaders play in shaping the mindsets of military officers has once again resurfaced yesterday, what with the perception that there are political leaders who may have convinced the young officers of the AFP to do what they did last Sunday.

Raymund Jose G. Quilop is an assistant professor of.political science at the University of the Philippines in Diliman and is a researcher/analyst of the Office of Strategic and Special Studies, Armed Forces of the Philippines.

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Military not the only sector doing sacrifice for Filipinos

THERE is no doubt that most of the junior officers involved in this coup attempt have impressive credentials. They are intelligent, articulate and come across as being patriotic and idealistic.

We also admire the NCOs and enlisted men who have decided to stand by them. Loyalty is a virtue that cannot be found wanting in these men.

They may have legitimate grievances as soldiers and citizens of our country.

These, however, do not mitigate the crimes they have committed. Their cause cannot justify their misdeeds.

Intelligent as they may seem, did they ponder long enough before they acted? Did they think of the consequences of their actions? If they succeeded, could they have hung on to power? It is easier to conquer than to rule. And if in the process they brought down our economy, what would they tell our people—that their dreams will never die? How about our own dreams for our families, for our children and for our Philippines?

Articulate as they may seem, can they not course their concerns through proper channels? Two alumni of the Philippine Military Academy serve as senators of the land. There are several prominent persons who have been adopted as mistahs of the different PMA classes. The mutineers did not even have to raise their voice, much less raise arms, to be heard.

We do not ignore their valor and heroism in their other campaigns. But they are not alone who toil for our people. The underpaid teachers hold the fort in the classrooms in nurturing young minds and instilling noble aspirations. Our government doctors, nurses and midwives endure the inadequacies of our bureaucracy to provide to the best of their abilities basic health services to our people. And we remember our overseas Filipino workers who risk their lives, dignity and sanity in order to send money back home.

No particular sector of society can lay claim to a monopoly of patriotism and idealism. The myriad of problems that is the Philippines today cannot be solved by men who cannot even hold true to their oaths as soldiers.

These soldiers must be made answerable under our laws not only for disrupting our weekend but also for putting the lives and property of ordinary citizens at risk. Now more than ever is the time for the Strong Republic to impose its political will. These coup plotters must be prosecuted, otherwise lenient measures like those accorded their ilk in the past will only encourage more military adventurism.

—LEOMIL O. APORTADERA, MD,
36 Commission Civil Street,
Jaro Iloilo City 5000

A racist in our midst?

IN THE AWARD-WINNING movie "The Pianist," a Nazi officer was berating Spilzman, the character played by Adrien Brody. The Nazi remarked, "You give a Jew your little finger and he takes away your whole arm."

In the year 2003, INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo, after talking about the Abu Sayyaf or the Moro Islamic Liberation Front or some criminal who happens to be a Moro, would proudly state, "You give a Moro your finger and he will take away your arm."

Friends, do we have a Nazi in our midst? Why is INQUIRER tolerating a racist among its rank? Why are my Christian brothers allowing this with nary a protest? Is this the way to peace?

—EDIL T. BADDIRI,
dilbs75@yahoo.com

Include barangays in anti-drug war

THE PHILIPPINE Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) reported that drug abuse in our country has indeed become frightening with about 3.4 million Filipinos now addicted to it. I believe the barangays can help much in the intensified campaign against drug trafficking. The barangay being a community where families usually know each other, it will be easy for people there to detect the presence of drug pushers and users. Surely, proper coordination between barangay officials and the police is a must in this campaign.

This scourge will continue to ravage more Filipinos. Sad to say, drug lords and their cohorts have become rich, while their victims now live in misery and much suffering.

So, the PDEA should include the barangays in this anti-drug war. Enlisting their help will surely add "teeth" to the all-out effort of the government to make our country hopefully drug-free. No quarter should be given the drug lords and their ilk.

—ADELFA L. ETRUISTE,
Eulalio Glinoga Street,
Barangay Castillo, Pitogo Quezon

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Stronger laws for MMDA

THE ENACTMENT of necessary urban development and control measures, with corresponding congressional budget allocation, could save Metropolitan Manila's urban environment from further decay.

Japan's fast recovery from the ashes of war could be credited to well-crafted laws on city planning, land readjustment, building standards, urban land utilization, urban renewal and redevelopment. Those laws provided policies, rules, standards and strategies on the improvement, development and conservation; implementation of urban renewal and redevelopment projects; separation and appropriate allocation of residential, commercial and industrial land uses; urban design and landscape improvement; historic sites and greenery preservation; site construction, equipment and the use and control of buildings, among others.

I hope our esteemed legislators will consider the passage of similar laws and provide the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) sufficient powers to implement them in our premier metropolis.

—RAUL D. VERCELES, environmental planner, Metropolitan Manila Development Auithority, MMDA Building, Edsa cor. Orense Street, Guadalupe, Makati City

What grievances?

IS it a sense of déjà vu or just a simple case of history repeating itself? My gut feel: it is both. After three headline-grabbing days, today's headline says it all, "Cool it, officers advised." (PDI, 7/20/03) Every junior officer is told to keep quiet, zip his lips, and ordered to wait till you become.

Politicians are poor students of history. The truth is many officers cannot get promoted if they do not have GSC. And this has nothing to do with the additional schooling each officer is mandated to undergo. This is the GSC as in governors, senators and congressmen, and presidents past and present who would want the politicization of the military.

Corruption is most rampant in the civilian bureaucracy of the government and we always uphold civilian supremacy over the military. We see soldiers die in the field and legislators who cannot pass meaningful legislation and are good only at lobbying for their pork barrel allotments, dining in 5-star hotels. We see government appointees acting callously, as if they are the epitomes of all that is right. What a shame!

Election is less than a year away and the modernization of this process is still nowhere in sight. Are we so blind that we cannot see the deception?

Let us offer the Lord God a prayer for the hypocrites to mend their ways.

—TIMOTEO Y. OPPUS,
Baclayon, Bohol

Act now to protect UP lands

THE REACTION of chancellor Emerlinda R. Roman of the University of the Philippines published in the INQUIRER, last July 15, is very inspiring. If all the officials of UP were as vigilant as she is, then there would have been no squatters at the Cruz na Ligas and other portions of the UP Diliman Campus.

Rights are not lost overnight, but are eroded over a period of time and the rightful owner gets the surprise of his/her life when upon waking up he/she finds out that all of his/her rights over the property had been lost.

Take as an example that vegetable and flower plantation inside the ground area of the former UP College of Veterinary Science on Garcia Avenue. I wonder who allowed these occupants to enter that area. Are the UP officials blind that they cannot see this?

I am reminded of the statement of one overzealous Department of Agrarian Reform official. *Pag tungkol sa implementation ng CARL wala kaming paki-alam kung ang lupang sinasaka ay residential, commercial, industrial or educational. Kukunin ng DAR iyan, malaki man ito or maliit ang area. Kaya mahirap ang awa-awa ngayon dahil sa bandang huli, ikaw ang kawawa!*

This is a fair warning. So I hope the UP authorities will take due notice and do something about this.

—ERWIN DELGADO,
85 E. Quirino St., Davao City

'When do I hear from the Department Service Board?'

IN THE YEAR 2001, I was given an interview by the Department Service Board, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, with respect to my pension claim as World War II veteran. It is now 2003 and nothing has happened and I'm disappointed again. I had my first interview in 1998.

I maybe right or wrong but I suspect something fishy in the way war veterans are qualified for pension. This sense is based on what I saw on TV, a story about two old women veteran who were accounted for as "dead" by the board. Luckily, the two old women appeared before the board and received their pension. I also remember Madam Imelda Marcos who got the pension of her late husband former President Ferdinand Marcos without much ado. *Nakakainggit!!!*

I could not help but air my plight and suffering. I hope President Macapagal will find time to investigate my case and those of many others.

—FRANCISCA GANGAN VDA. DE PEREZ,
World War II veteran, Block 4, Lot 3
Kalayaan Village, Pasay City,
Metro Manila

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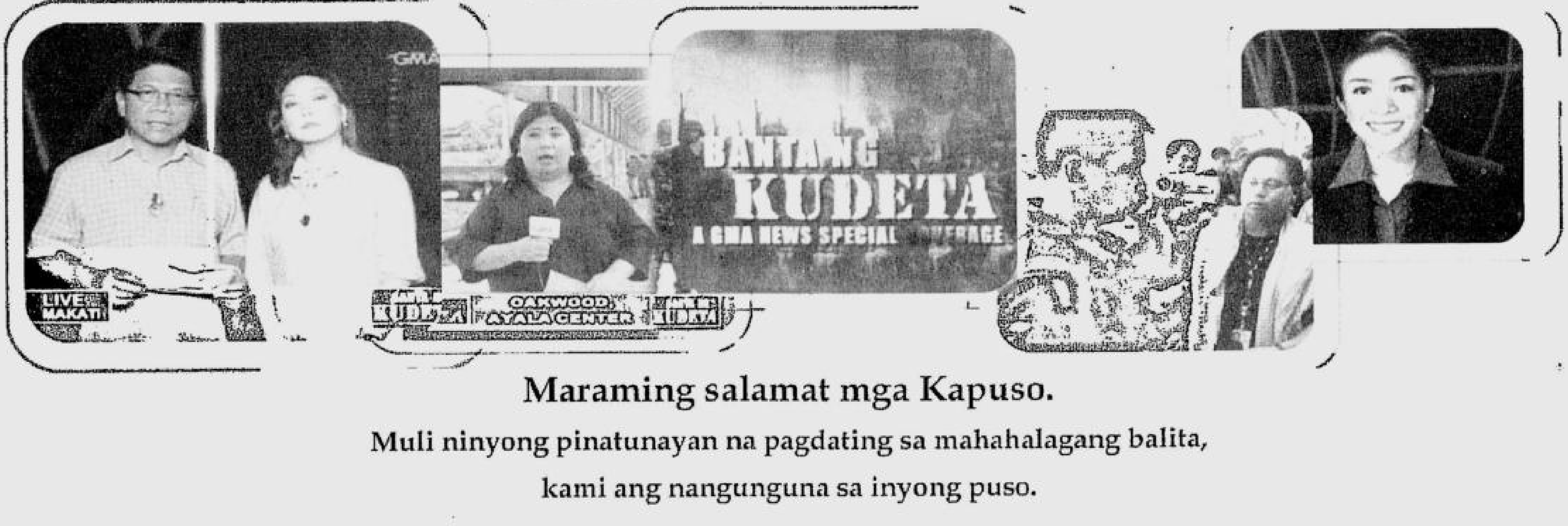
Source: AGB Phils. Overnight Ratings Survey • July 27, 2003



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US suffers 50th death in 'post-war' Iraq

BAGHDAD—A US soldier was killed in a bomb attack in broad daylight in Baghdad on Monday, bringing to 50 the number of US troops to die from hostile fire since Washington declared major combat over on May 1.

The US military said three other troops were wounded when an "improvised explosive device" was dropped from a bridge onto a US convoy in the capital's Rashid district, the latest in an increasingly bold and deadly guerrilla campaign.

Fueling a cycle of fear and resentment between American occupiers and ordinary Iraqis, people in Baghdad accused jumpy US troops of killing five passers-by on Sunday in what looked like a botched raid in the hunt for Saddam Hussein.

US spokespersons declined all comment on Sunday's incident, adding to an air of mystery over precisely what occurred.

The US commander in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, warned the country was becoming a "terrorist magnet" and said attacks on his forces were becoming more sophisticated.

A previously unknown group, apparently Iraqi Muslim militants, said in a video tape aired on Arab television it would fight a "holy war" against US President George W. Bush.

A masked gunman from the Salafist Jihad Group said:

"America, you have declared war on God's soldiers... You will have no security or peace of mind as long as you are an infidel and fighting a war against Islam."

About a third of the US deaths since May 1 have occurred in the past 10 days alone, although US officers say the number of attacks is constant at an average of about a dozen a day.

Those behind the attacks remain unseen and US commanders have been playing down the possibility Saddam may be orchestrating them or that the killing of his once powerful sons a week ago should slow the attrition rate. Saddam, they say, has little room for maneuver as troops hunt him down.

As the quest goes on for him, however, US forces seem to be stumbling at times in their efforts to win friends among the vast majority of Iraqis who detested the old regime.

In Mansur, a smart district in western Baghdad, troops from the Task Force 20 special unit hunting Saddam and his inner circle raided a house on Sunday evening. But they came away empty-handed, leaving the shattered wrecks of cars that were shot up apparently in error—and seething neighbors.

US military spokespersons declined even to discuss the incident beyond confirming Task Force 20 was involved. Some troops tried to prevent journalists filming the aftermath.

Soldiers said five men died, one of them a teenager.

Several residents, interviewed by Reuters on Monday, said the Americans had erected a single roadblock leading to the house but failed to prevent innocent motorists straying into the area from quiet side streets. They accused the troops of firing machineguns at two cars, killing the occupants.

US officers sound ever more confident of finding Saddam, as the $25 million reward on his head entices more informants to come forward. Washington has made much of its plan to pay out $30 million to the person who tipped them off about his sons, Uday and Qusay. Saddam was ousted by US-led forces on April 9.

"We're close to catching Saddam. A lot of people are stepping forward with information. He's running out of places to hide," military spokesperson Sgt. Amy Abbot said on Monday.

What remains to be seen, however, is whether eliminating the remnants of the old guard will help reconcile Iraqis to a US occupying force that shows no sign of leaving very soon.

Reuters

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Bob Hope assembled 7 million 'clean' jokes

LOS ANGELES—US comedian Bob Hope, whose death was announced Monday, assembled an unprecedented archive of around seven million jokes during his seven-decade career—all of them clean.

The funnyman's collection of gags even won a place among the trophies and knicknacks of presidents of the United States when the country's Library of Congress opened a permanent exhibit of his wisecracks in 2000.

The display features examples of Hope's jokes alongside photographs of his childhood and his early career in show business of the entertainer who celebrated his centenary less than two months ago.

Many of Hope's biting one-liners have entered popular culture, but despite his popularity and readiness to take potshots at politicians and rival Hollywood stars, the family man always eschewed blue humor.

Hope employed over one hundred writers to create jokes and lines for his famous and topical radio and stage monologues, and got inside information from army personnel in order to create in-jokes to amuse the 10 million troops he entertained over the years.

Here are some of the jokes and one-liners that made the English-born comic and actor, who left Britain at the age of 4 for America, one of the best-known entertainers of the 20th century.

On his British roots, he said: • "I left England at an early age, as soon as I was old enough to realize they already had a king."

• "My folks were English . . . we were too poor to be British."

On his passion for golf:

• "Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees," he said of his lifelong love of the game which he helped popularize.

"I set out to play golf with the intention of shooting my age, but I shot my weight instead!"

On his old age and busy life, Hope quipped:

• "I don't feel old—I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap."

• "If I had my life to live over.... I wouldn't have time."

•"You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

•"I'm so old that they've cancelled my blood type," he said just before his 100th birthday in May.

ENTERTAINER Bob Hope is pictured on a set of commemorative stamps issued by the country Nevis in this undated file photograph. Hope died at age 100 at his home in the Toluca Lake section of Los Angeles July 27. REUTERS

• "I was able to find my original birth certificate, but it took three guys to help me get it. Stone tablets are heavy."

On the Oscars: • "Oscar night at my house is called Passover," he said of the competitive movie awards which he never won for his movie work.

On his childhood and large family: • "I came from a very big family. Four of us slept in the same bed. When we got cold, Mother threw on another brother. With so many boys, my father bought us a dachshund so we could all pet him at the same time."

On performing before a live audience: • "I really played some rough houses. I remember one theater: The audience was so rough, they used to tie the tomatoes on the end of yo-yos so they could hit you twice."

On Sex: • "My father told me all about the birds and the bees, the liar—I went steady with a woodpecker till I was twenty-one".

On his partnership with pal Bing Crosby, co-star of the "Road to ..." movies: • "It was love at first sight. We started to insult each other from the moment we met."

• "Bing was always kissing Dorothy Lamour, and I was always kissing a gorilla or a camel. We both made a lot of money. But most of mine went to cure hoof-and-mouth disease."

• "You know, all during the years, people have tried to describe Bing's voice, but I think my grandmother came closest of all. She says it sounds like a passionate cow being milked with suede gloves."

On politicians, the lifelong Republican supporter said: • "It appears that the president taped all his conversations in the Oval Office," he said of disgraced Republican Richard Nixon after the Watergate scandal that toppled him. "I just hope that 18 minutes of missing tape included some of the bad jokes I told him."

• "It's not hard to find Jerry Ford on a golf course—you just follow the wounded," he said of the former president noted for his clumsiness.

• "The Republicans wanted to balance the budget but after seeing what the Democrats left they found they had to budget the balance."

• "I played golf with him yesterday," he said of former US president and army general Dwight Eisenhower. "It's hard to beat a guy who rattles his medals while you're putting. Ike uses a short Democrat for a tee."

On war and military topics: • "I was on the way to my hotel and I passed a hotel going in the opposite direction," he told an audience after he narrowly escaped a bomb blast at his hotel in Saigon in the then South Vietnam.

• "The stealth bomber is supposed to be a big deal. It flies in undetected, bombs, then flies away. Hell, I've been doing that all my life."

AFP

Kill Saddam if capture risky, US official says

WASHINGTON—A top US official suggested late Monday that ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein should be killed without hesitation, if capturing him alive meant risking the lives of US soldiers.

The comments, by Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, appeared to signal that only clean surrender could guarantee survival to the former Iraqi dictator.

"If Saddam Hussein could be captured safely, without any harm to US service persons, that would be great," Armitage told CNN television. "If there is a question of harm being done to US servicemen, then he should be killed."

The deputy secretary of state became the second high-ranking US official in less than a week to indicate that while the United States was interested in getting Saddam out of the picture, it had no particular concern whether he ended up alive or dead.

Speaking in Congress last Wednesday, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said top Pentagon officials had left it to commanders in the field to decide whether to take former senior Iraqi leaders dead or alive. "If a person is determined to fight to the death, then they may very well have that opportunity," Rumsfeld warned.

The remarks by Armitage came a week after US forces killed Saddam Hussein's two sons, Uday and Qusay, following a pitched battle in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, a breakthrough that led to an intensified the search for the deposed strongman.

Three US soldiers were wounded in that operation, according to defense officials.

With the hunt for Saddam gathering steam, Armitage insisted that US troops in Iraq were now hot on his trail and stood a good chance of catching up with him.

"I think most people feel that the noose is tightening pretty regularly around the neck of Saddam Hussein," he said. "Even today, there were three raids. And we believe we were just hours behind Saddam Hussein. So it looks like his days are numbered."

But US Army Captain Jeff Fitzgibbons, a spokesperson for coalition forces in Baghdad, said the military had no evidence that capture of the former Iraqi leader was imminent.

"I don't have any hard facts in my possession that would indicate that was the case," Fitzgibbons said in a telephone interview. "I do know that they talked to some locals that felt he had just been through, but there is nothing really confirmable as far as facts that would lead us conclude irrefutably that that was the case."

Reflecting on the causes of intensified guerrilla attacks against US forces, Armitage expressed regret that not enough Iraqi soldiers had been killed by US and British forces during initial offensive operations in the wake of the March 20 invasion of Iraq.

AFP

US forces capture top Saddam bodyguard

BAGHDAD—US forces hunting Saddam Hussein in Iraq have captured three key figures loyal to the deposed dictator, including a top bodyguard, and are closing in on Saddam himself, the US military said on Tuesday.

"Members of the 4th Infantry Division detained four individuals in Tikrit. Three of those individuals are believed to be former regime loyalists," a US spokesperson said.

"They are being questioned as we speak."

US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said US forces nearly captured Saddam in raids on Monday.

"I think most people feel that the noose is tightening pretty regularly around the neck of Saddam Hussein, even today there were three raids and we believe we were just hours behind Saddam Hussein," he said on CNN.

Washington says that after Saddam's feared sons Uday and Qusay were killed last week—and the man who betrayed them claimed a $30 million reward—many more Iraqis are coming forward with information on the fugitive former president.

"We're close to catching Saddam. A lot of people are stepping forward with information. He's running out of places to hide," army spokesperson Sgt. Amy Abbot said.

The United States is offering $25 million for information leading to the arrest or proof of death of Saddam.

The military said a former bodyguard of Saddam was among those detained on Tuesday, the latest of several raids around Saddam's hometown of Tikrit.

Television pictures filmed through a night vision lens showed a man being escorted from a building by American soldiers, blood seeping through a blindfold.

Reuters

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6 Muslim militants killed in Saudi security sweep

RIYADH—Six Muslim militants and two policemen were killed on Monday in the latest Saudi security sweep, which Riyadh says shows it is serious about waging war on terror.

It was the biggest militant death toll in a series of shootouts since suicide bombs in Riyadh killed 35 people on May 12, including nine Americans. Saudi Arabia and the United States blamed the attacks on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida group.

Monday's casualties came in a firefight at a farm in Qassim province, an Islamist heartland in the northeast, during a crackdown on wanted Islamists, the interior ministry said in a statement. Eight policemen were wounded in the clash.

"Security forces besieged a farm in Qassim after information that a number of wanted men were hiding there. The suspects were asked to surrender, but they responded by firing at the security forces and threw hand grenades," said the statement, read out on Saudi television.

"The operation led to the killing of six suspects and the wounding of one of them. Two security men were martyred and eight others were slightly wounded," it said, adding four people who gave the suspects refuge were arrested.

King Fahd, addressing a cabinet meeting, praised police, intelligence agencies and ordinary citizens for thwarting terror attacks, saying it showed "the determination of all to deter those who want to infringe on the security of the state and citizens," the official Saudi News Agency SPA reported.

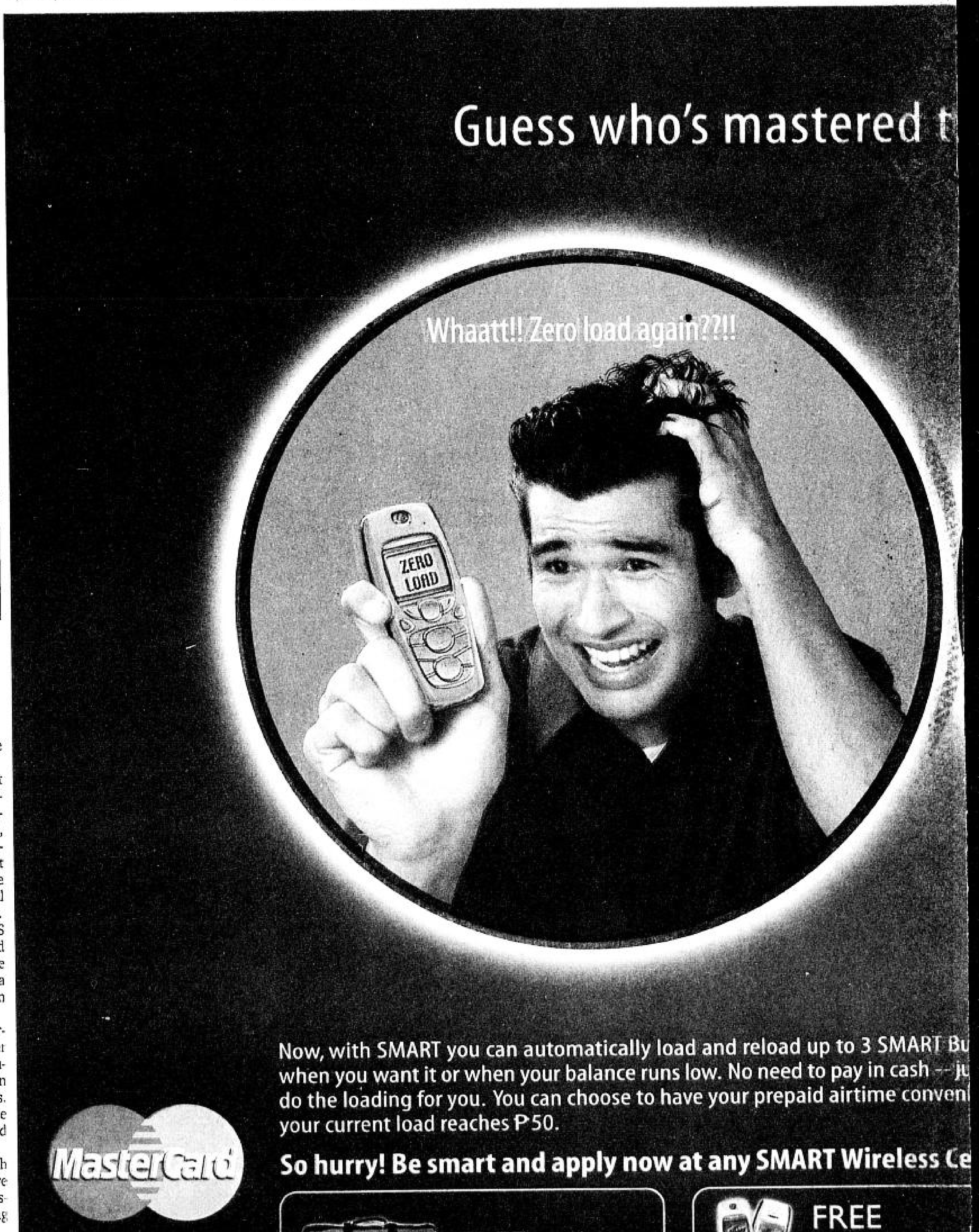
The shootout followed a US congressional report released last week which implied the strict Islamic state had had a role in the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

The report threatened to tarnish ties that had improved after Riyadh cooperated with US security agencies to crack down on militants after the May attacks. Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz dismissed the report as "just talk."

The Sept. 11 attacks, in which 15 of the 19 suicide hijackers were Saudi nationals, frayed a decades-old alliance based on interlocking oil and defense interests.

Since Sept. 11, Saudi Arabia has taken steps to control groups which may have been channeling money to militants.

Police have arrested some 240 suspects in a hunt for al-Qaida militants since early May. *Reuters*



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NOTICE OF TENDER OFFER TO SHAREHOLDERS OF UNITED PULP AND PAPER CO., INC.

To All Shareholders of United Pulp and Paper Co., Inc. ("UPPC"):

Please be informed that, on 28 July 2003, The Siam Pulp and Paper Public Company Limited ("SPPC"), a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of Thailand, filed the Tender Offer Statement (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with its intention to acquire 25,900,114 common shares equivalent to approximately 18.4% of the total outstanding capital stock of UPPC at P 5.00 per share. As of 18 July 2003, the total outstanding capital stock of UPPC consists of 140,570,863 common shares (the "Shares").

Stockholders as at 25 July 2003 (the "Record Date") may tender all or a portion of their Shares for acceptance and purchase by SPPC, subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, beginning at 9:00 a.m. of 28 July 2003 until 3:00 p.m. of 26 August 2003 (the "Tender Offer Period").

Tendering stockholders should secure validation of their stock certificates by UPPC's Corporate Secretary, Atty. Juan J. Diaz at 11th Floor, Phinma Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, 1211 Makati City. Thereafter, the stockholders should accomplish and submit the Application to Tender Shares in duplicate, together with other requirements set forth therein, and tender their corresponding stock certificates to Stock Transfer Service, Inc. (the "Depository") at 8th Floor, Phinma Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, 1211 Makati City, with telephone numbers 632-8987555 and 632-8987590.

Tendering stockholders shall have the right to withdraw any tendered Share(s) at any time during the Tender Offer Period. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by the Depository before 3:00 p.m. of 26 August 2003.

The Tender Offer is further subject to the terms and conditions described in the Terms of the Tender Offer. Copies of SEC Form 19-1, the Terms of the Tender Offer and the Application to Tender Shares, may be obtained by the stockholders of UPPC, free of charge, from the following:

Stock Transfer Service, Inc.
8th Floor, Phinma Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive
Rockwell Center, 1211 Makati City
Telephone Numbers: 632-8987555/ 632-8987590
Contact Person: Antonio M. Laviña

SPPC confirms that sufficient resources are available to satisfy full acceptance of the offer to tender the Shares.

This Notice is published in compliance with Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. [Copies of this Notice, along with the Application to Tender Shares and the attachments, shall be sent to the stockholders by personal delivery or registered mail.

NOTE: YOU MAY CONSULT YOUR LEGAL AND/OR FINANCIAL ADVISER OR DIRECT YOUR INQUIRIES OR REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION TO THE DEPOSITORY.

Mr. Somboon Chuchawal
President
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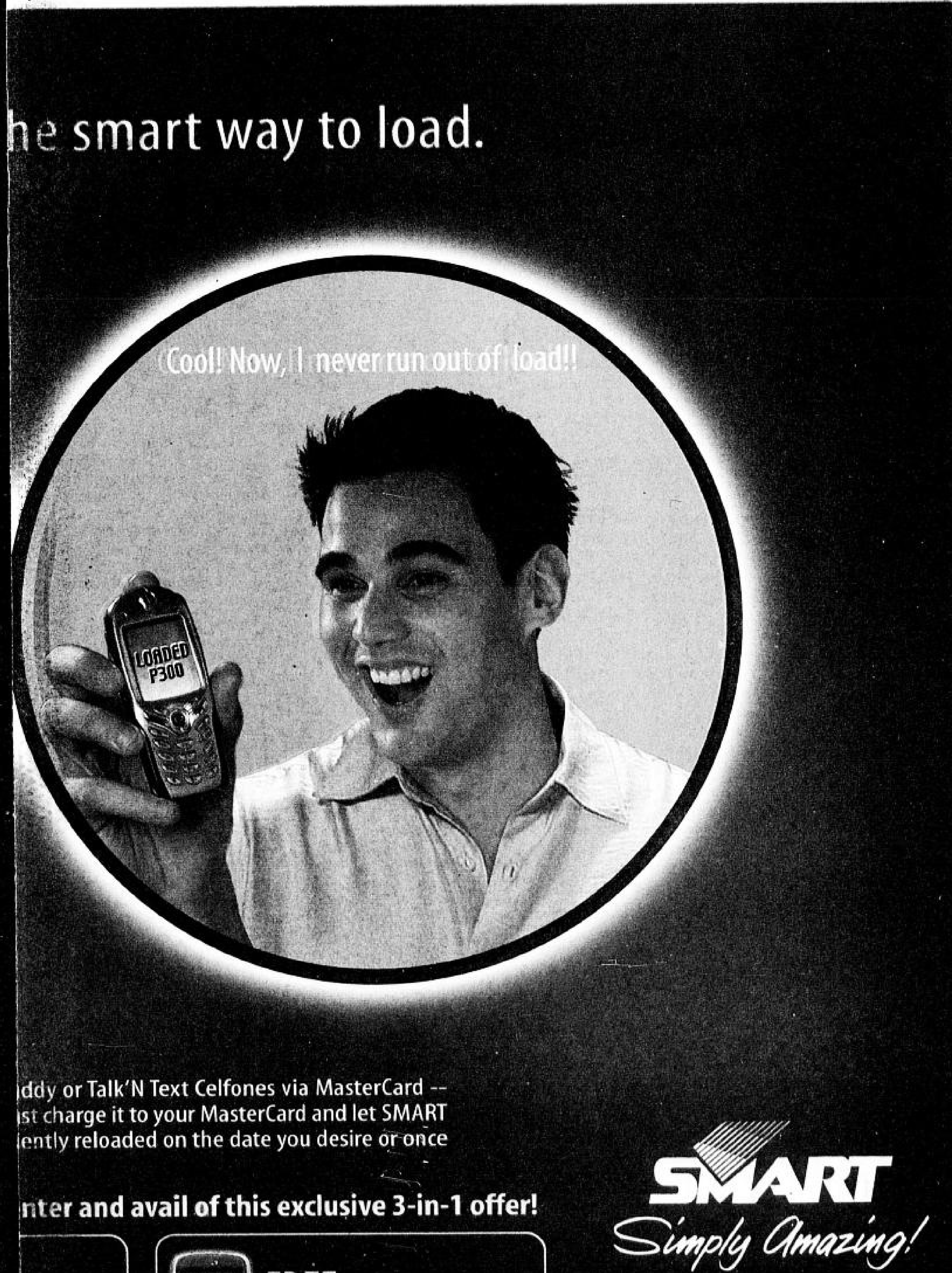
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Bush imposes new sanctions on Burma, vows to back Suu Kyi

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush on Monday imposed tough new sanctions on Buma's crippled economy, vowing Americans would not desert opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi in her struggle for democracy.

Bush signed the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, which garnered huge majorities in the House of Representatives and the Senate two weeks ago.

"The world must make clear, through word and deed, that the people of Burma, like people everywhere, deserve to live in dignity and freedom, under leaders of their own choosing," said Bush in a statement.

He said the move was a "clear signal" to Burma's generals that they must release Aung San Suu Kyi, arrested in May, and move towards democracy."

The sanctions, which go into force in a month, include a ban on all imports from Burma, and are aimed especially at the crucial textiles trade in an economy teetering on the brink of collapse.

"By denying these rulers the hard currency they use to fund their repression, we are providing strong incentives for democratic change and human rights in Burma," Bush said.

The legislation also authorizes the president to aid Burma democracy activists, freezes the regime's financial assets in US banks and property in the United States, and widens a visa ban on Burmese officials.

SUU KYI

"The United States will not waver from its commitment to the cause of democracy and human rights in Burma," said Bush.

He accused Burma's ruling generals of organizing an attack on a motorcade in which democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was travelling in late May, which led to her arrest.

In an official media commentary at the weekend, the generals said that violence that led to her arrest proved her National League for Democracy was bent on a "strategy to plot the downfall of the existing government."

The government ruled out ever standing aside in favor of the prodemocracy opposition, saying the only way forward was for them to work together. *AFP*

Rebels seize key city in Liberia; fighting still rages in Monrovia

MONROVIA—Liberian rebels Monday seized the second port city of Buchanan as the war-battered capital Monrovia remained in the grip of fierce combat and west African leaders failed to fix a date to send peacekeepers to end the brutal war.

Rebels from the smaller Movement for Democracy in Liberia (Model) movement stormed into Buchanan in the morning and wrested it after a fierce battle, residents said, adding that government troops fled the garrison there toward Monrovia.

A humanitarian source said government militiamen had looted cars and other property belonging to international aid agencies before fleeing, leaving the city in rebel control.

However, Liberian Defense Minister Daniel Chea said government forces were still in control of at least part of the city, located some 100 km southeast down the Atlantic coast from the capital.

"We are controlling the west part of the town, the crossroad leading to Monrovia... (and) they are controlling the center of the town," he said.

In Monrovia, detonations were heard at regular intervals as forces of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) main rebel movement pressed on with their two-week-old siege on the city.

The shifting front lines in fighting for control of three key bridges have returned to positions of two days ago, military sources said early Monday.

Meanwhile, top officials from the 15-nation Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) regional bloc Monday failed to fix a date for the deployment of a long awaited and long overdue peacekeeping force.

A military source at a meeting of west African military chiefs in Ghana said that the officials concluded instead that a separate mission must first be sent to evaluate the situation.

An initial Nigerian force was to have been the vanguard for a 3,000-strong Ecowas peacekeeping force, agreed upon earlier this month by the regional bloc. *AFP*

China's last SARS patients recover; outbreak now over

BEIJING—China's last 12 patients suffering from the respiratory disease SARS no longer have symptoms, health officials said Tuesday, signaling the end to an outbreak that created panic, baffled medical professionals and left hundreds dead.

"The 12, who had been confirmed as having SARS, have no more symptoms and will not infect anyone in close contact with them," Beijing Municipal Bureau of Health deputy director Liang Wannian was quoted as saying by state media.

However, they remain in hospitals in Beijing "due to complications caused by SARS."

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome spread worldwide after first appearing in southern China's Guangdong province in November.

It was carried to Hong Kong by a badly infected mainland Chinese doctor, sparking a global outbreak that struck down more than 8,000 people and left more than 800 dead in 32 countries.

Some 349 of the fatalities and 5,327 of the infections were in China, with Beijing hardest hit.

At its peak, China was lumbered with six World Health Organization travel advisories and Beijing resembled a ghost town with the population panic-buying essential goods and holing up at home.

Images of thousands of frightened residents wearing surgical masks in the streets became some of the most enduring symbols of the crisis.

It had a devastating effect on business, particularly tourism, with the fallout reflected in China's booming economic growth slowing to 6.7 percent in the second quarter of the year.

This compared to growth in the second quarter last year of eight percent and growth on the first three months of 2003 of 9.9 percent from a year earlier.

The announcement that the last patients were free from the pneumonia-like bug coincided with President Hu Jintao addressing a national working conference on SARS prevention and control.

In his speech he attributed "the major victory" over the disease to "the staunch leadership" of the Communist Party which "further indicated the eminent superiority of socialism," the Xinhua news agency reported.

China's government initially covered up the epidemic, gagging the press, but finally admitted a problem in April, sacking the health minister and Beijing's mayor. *AFP*

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Melee erupts in Cebu port strike

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Six union leaders were injured, three of them thrown into the sea, in a melee that erupted between two rival labor groups during the strike staged by some employees of the Sulpicio Lines Inc. at the Cebu Pier I yesterday.

Members of the Unyon ng Mandaragat sa Sulpicio Lines-Alliance for Nationalist Genuine Labor Organization Kilusang Mayo Uno (UMSS-Anglo-KMU) accused "thugs" from its rival Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP) of attacking them around 9 a.m. yesterday.

At least 30 employees belonging to the UMSS, accusing the shipping firm of union busting, went on strike at 6 a.m. yesterday and held their picket in front of MV Cagayan Princess, which had just docked at Pier 1.

Alex Kiamko, UMSS coordinator, said they were holding a peaceful strike when Michael Mendoza, area vice president of the ALU in the Visayas, arrived at around 8 a.m. and immediately demanded that they leave the port area.

He said they ignored Mendoza's demand but about an hour later, several men carrying firearms arrived and started attacking them.

Kiamko said the group punched them and threw off some of his companions into the sea, including Jaime Paglinawan, a KMU-Cebu leader who was in the area to support the striking workers.

He said he tried to rescue Paglinawan but an ALU "goon" beat him up with a steel object. He said the armed group also fired their guns towards them while they were running towards the Waterfront Police Station, located just outside Pier I, to seek assistance.

Order was restored only when Waterfront policemen arrived.

Those thrown into to the sea and sustained injuries were Paglinawan; KMU official Glemar Bacusmo, 28, of Bacayan, Talamban, Cebu City; and Freddie Leguip, 37, a crew of Sulcon 8, a cargo vessel owned by Sulpicio Lines.

Four others were injured in the melee.

Kiamko said they would file charges against the suspects whom they identified as members of the United Stevedoring Dockhandlers Inc.-ALU.

Mendoza denied starting the melee. He said he and a companion approached the strikers at 8 a.m. to ask them to allow some Sulpicio crewmembers who belong to ALU to disembark from MV Cagayan Princess. He said since the strikers did not heed his request, he called up the ALU office and asked members to go to the site to ask them again to leave.

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT is exactly 443 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

SPECIAL REPORT

PDEA marks first year of war against drug trafficking and abuse with new vigor, focus and determination

As the lead agency in the revitalized national anti-drug campaign as provided for in Republic Act 9165, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency was faced upon its activation on July 30, 2002 with a seemingly insurmountable challenge – how to eradicate the growing drug problem with the end in view of achieving a Drug-Free Philippines by the year 2010.

Under RA 9165, the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) remains as the policy-making and strategy-formulating body, while the PDEA serves as its implementing arm. The Congressional Oversight Committee on Dangerous Drugs co-chaired by Sen. Robert Barbers and Rep. Antonio Cuenco sees to it that the law is properly implemented.

The past 12 months have been a busy period for the PDEA as it confronted the drug problem head-on with new vigor, focus and determination.

"Despite limited human and material resources, the Agency has successfully carried out its mandate, even registering significant accomplishments during the period," said Usec. Anselmo S. Avenido Jr., PDEA Director General.

First 5 months

The following are the highlights of the accomplishments of the law enforcement agencies from July 30, 2002 to December 31, 2002, or over a period of five months, with PDEA as the lead agency:

- Two clandestine laboratories were dismantled and a total of 33 drug groups were neutralized – 32 local and one transnational.
- 25,056 drug personalities (14,277 possessors, 10,733 pushers, 43 financiers and 3 cultivators) were arrested.
- 204.8 kilos of shabu and 112 kilos of dried marijuana involved in 301 cases were burned on October 10, 2002 at the Integrated Waste Management Incinerator Facility in Calamba, Laguna. This was the first burning of big volume of seized, confiscated, or surrendered dangerous drugs under the new law, RA 9165, to be undertaken by the PDEA.
- 14,486 drug cases were filed in court and P5.3 billion worth of illegal drugs, precursors and essential chemicals and laboratory equipment were seized.
- 34 drug cases were decided in court and 40 drug personalities were convicted as charged. A total of 12 suspects involved in five sensational cases were all sentenced with *reclusion perpetua* or life imprisonment.
- Continuous screening of personnel on detail and projected to be detailed with the PDEA is being conducted. Related to this, the PDEA conducted drug tests of detailed personnel, four of whom were found positive for drug use. The four are now facing summary dismissal proceedings.

First semester

For the first semester (January to June 2003) of the current year, the PDEA, the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation and other agencies, conducted a total of 9,011 anti-drug operations broken down into: 4,004 buy-bust operations; 845 search and seizure operations by virtue of search warrant; 41 operations served with warrant of arrest; 5 interdiction operations; 3,976 saturation drives and raids; and 140 marijuana eradication operations.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (top photo) inspects the clandestine shabu laboratory discovered in a house in Tanza, Cavite. The shabu laboratory is considered the biggest ever to be discovered by law enforcement agencies. Above, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. who is also OIC-Chairman of the DDB (with microphone) and PDEA Director General Anselmo S. Avenido Jr. observe chemists from the PNP Crime Laboratory prepare confiscated drugs prior to their burning.

These operations resulted in the arrest of 12,383 drug personalities, 28 of which were foreigners, and the subsequent filing of 7,645 cases. Based on PDEA records, a total of 51 drug cases were resolved in court which resulted in the conviction of 75 suspects, 12 of them sentenced with *reclusion perpetua* or life imprisonment. During the same period, five drug groups were neutralized, 61 drug-affected barangays cleared, one clandestine shabu laboratory dismantled, and dangerous drugs worth P477.42 million seized.

Other highlights of the period under review are: the destruction of drug evidence no longer needed in court composed of 1,287.75 grams of shabu, 20 grams of cocaine and 2,872.41 grams of dried marijuana in separate ceremonies initiated by the PDEA; and the successful implementation of Operation: Private Eye, a rewards and incentive program for civilian informants which resulted in the arrest of 331 drug personalities, the confiscation of illegal drugs, precursors and laboratory equipment, and the dismantling of a clandestine shabu laboratory. For the first semester of the current year, a total of 9 informants received monetary reward amounting to P547,705.81.

3-month intensified anti-drug drive

Determined to eradicate the drug menace once and for all, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo launched on June 18 an intensified three-month anti-drug campaign. She ordered the PDEA, PNP and other law enforcement agencies to produce strategic and significant results – neutralization of drug syndicates, arrest of big drug personalities, dismantling of clandestine shabu laboratories, and eradication of marijuana plantations.

The President formalized her order by issuing Executive Order 218 dated June 18, 2003 strengthening the support mechanism for the PDEA as the lead agency in the campaign against illegal drugs.

Avenido said the three-month program of action against illegal drugs was launched in response to the "urgent need to pursue a forceful, intensive and unrelenting campaign against drug trafficking and the use of illegal drugs whether syndicated or street level."

From June 19 to July 30, 2003, the first one month and a half of the three-month intensified anti-drug campaign, the PDEA, PNP, NBI and BuCus with the assistance of the Armed Forces of the Philippines have already accomplished the following:

- Arrest of 33 drug personalities considered as 'big fishes" in the illegal drug trade.
- Dismantling of four clandestine shabu laboratories and the discovery of three big shabu warehouses.
- Arrest of 1,920 pushers, 2,321 possessors and 1 cultivator.
- Filing in court of 1,271 cases.
- Seizure of illegal items valued at P10 billion.

"With the full implementation of Republic Act 9165, I don't see any reason why we can't achieve the vision of a Drug-Free Philippines by 2010 or even earlier," Avenido said, adding that the drug problem can only be solved through sustained and continuous cooperation of all sectors of society.

Advt.

7 mutineers major players in war against Abu Sayyaf

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Seven of the 70 young officers who joined Sunday's mutiny in Makati belonged to the 1st Scout Ranger Battalion in Basilan and are considered major players in successful operations against the Abu Sayyaf, including the rescue of American hostage Gracia Burnham.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko described the seven officers as "very young, handsome and adventurist," while their immediate superior said they were "very intelligent, brave, idealistic and uncorrupted."

Col. Renato Padua, commander of the 1st Scout Ranger Battalion, identified the seven officers who were in his command since 2000 as Capt. Albert Baloloy (Class '95), the 10th Scout Ranger Company commander; Capt. John Andres (Class '95), 14th SR company commander; 1Lt. Jeffrey Cauguiran (Class '96), 1st SR company commander; Lt. Jose Enrico Dingle (Class '96), 12th SR company commander; Lt. Elvin Rivera, executive officer of the 3rd SR company; 2Lt. Christopher Brian Yasay (Class 2000), executive officer of the 12th SR Company; and 1Lt. Lawrence San Juan (Class '97), commander of the US-trained Light Reaction Company.

In their idle moments, Padua said, the officers "always discussed the fate of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the issue on salary, housing and graft and corruption, but these officers never failed to air their sides, their grievances to the higher officials."

"Maybe if they were listened to in the past, this mutiny would not have happened. I know their grievances; every officer in the AFP is aware of their grievances, it's just that limited resources could not meet and address everybody's needs," Padua added.

"From Mahadji in 2000 up to the April 2003 encounter in Pilas Island, they have been executing their mission with fire and dedication and I cannot blame them if they ended up mutineers," Padua said.

The officers led the operation that allegedly killed Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Aldam Tilao alias Abu Sabaya in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte in June 7, 2002.

They also participated in the Balikatan Exercise 02-1 in July 2002 and trained alongside their foreign counterparts in intelligence fusion, marksmanship and close quarter combat operation exercises.

Southcom chief Kyamko, when asked if the AFP should be embarrassed with what the officers did, said: "I don't think it's embarrassing, it's their personal conviction."

Some religious leaders in Basilan preferred a lighter punishment for the rebel officers.

Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad, who personally know the officers, said a "re-education to these officers is enough punishment."

He urged President Macapagal to listen and address first the grievances aired by the mutineers because "such action (rebellion) was done out of frustration."

"If there are military officers who required immediate jailing, (these are those) involved (in the) Lamitan siege, (those with) collusion with the Abu Sayyaf, not those young officers with valid concerns," the Bishop added.

Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, former Lamitan parish priest, said the officers "only expressed legitimate grievances, if the government insists on jailing them that would be tantamount to keeping their mouths shut and ignoring the real issues behind the mutiny." *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Bishop says rebel soldiers deserve understanding

DAGUPAN CITY—Catholic bishop Oscar Cruz said the junior officers who joined the Sunday mutiny in Makati City "deserved understanding and sympathy" but the full force of the law must be applied on them for breaking the military's chain of command.

Cruz, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop, who described the rebel soldiers as "well-armed but still behaved as officers and gentlemen," said the junior officers have a rightful cause.

"They felt the futility of official talks and big promises so they acted on their own. They knew they were being betrayed and belittled so they made their move," Cruz said.

The bishop also assailed military and government officials who have not cleansed their departments of graft and corruption.

"Many previous events already revealed this government's liability of long standing. There have been many speeches said, many promises made and many programs designed to institute reforms. But then, when, if ever, shall they be translated into reality? How long will the lowly soldiers wait?" Cruz asked.

He said he was thankful that the Makati siege was short-lived and was concluded peacefully.

"Closely watched by the international community, the Filipinos once again proved that although poor, they are not savages. Although they are a proud race, they are not unreasonable," he said.

He said the lessons that could be learned from the event were the belief in the power of prayers and the significance of dialogue between parties of right intention and goodwill.

In Central Luzon, Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, chief of the Army's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) covering four regions in Central and Northern Luzon, visited all camps and met troops on Tuesday bid to forge unity among the soldiers.

Dominguez, traveling by helicopter, went to the camps and detachments under the 5th and 7th Infantry Divisions based in Camp Melchor de la Cruz in Isabela and Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, respectively.

Lt. Col. Preme Monta, Nolcom spokesperson, said Dominguez made the rounds to "quell misinformation" that troops under the Nolcom, which covers Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera and Central Luzon, had either been re-deployed in Metro Manila and that some had joined the mutineers. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cebu-based supporters of mutiny given only reprimand

By Kathy I. Navarro and Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The three junior military officers based in this city who supported Sunday's mutiny in Makati City were given only reprimand because they stopped short of carrying firearms.

Navy Lieutenant Senior Grade Allan Uy, Army Capt. Jojo Pascual and Navy Lieutenant Senior Grade Anchie Diola did not report to their post on Sunday in support of the "noble cause" of the Makati mutineers, but surrendered on Sunday night after being informed that their comrades agreed to return to barracks following negotiations.

The three met with two upperclassmen from the Naval Forces Central (Navforcen) at 11:22 p.m. outside a fast food joint in Barangay Lahug.

The two Navforcen officers then escorted Uy, Pascual and Diola to Camp Lapulapu, the Armed Forces Central Command (Centcom) headquarters located about two kilometers from where they met.

Uy was spokesperson of the Navforcen. Diola was assigned at the Military Intelligence Group in Central Visayas. They belong to PMA class '95.

The three, all wearing the red armbands similar to the ones used by the mutineers, met with the INQUIRER on Sunday morning.

"We are gathered here today without arms to publicly express our support to the noble cause of the officers and men in Makati and to Lt. Antonio Trillanes," said Uy, the group's spokesperson.

He said they supported the National Recovery Program to immediately address the country's problems and stir the nation toward recovery.

"For this reason, we intentionally did not report to our respective units in order to air our support to the noble officers and men who are willing to risk their lives for a cause," said Uy.

Uy told the INQUIRER that several military junior officers in Cebu, Panay, Bohol and Negros Islands had "committed" themselves to the cause and were ready to move anytime.

Diola, for his part, said these junior officers were eager to take over government facilities but "we told them to just calm down."

He said they only extended "peaceful support" to the rebel group but were also ready to move.

Diola said they were aware of the consequences of their decision but were willing to sacrifice their careers and their lives for a "noble cause."

Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot, Centcom chief, gave the three until noon of Monday to report to their mother units or they would be declared absent without leave. He said the three were supposed to report to their units by noon on Sunday but had failed to do so and had been unaccounted for.

His staff, he added, was in constant touch with Diola, who would not give his location but he gave an assurance that he was just "cooling off" because he sympathized with his classmates.

Ligot, however, downplayed the claims of three junior officers that there were others in the Visayas supportive of the mutineers. "That is their claim," Ligot said. Pascual, Diola and Uy were "not commanders" so they did not have men working under them," he said.

Diola said Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya assured them that they would just be "admonished" for supporting the mutineers because he, Pascual and Uy had "not crossed the line."

He said that if they would be harassed by the senior officers, Abaya told them to personally inform him about it immediately.

Gov. Pablo Garcia said the three officers have not violated any law because they had not crossed the lines. "The three officers expressed sympathy for the cause. You can't be punished for that," he said.

Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

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ARMY
GAMBALA

CAPT. Gerardo "Kaspog" Gambala: Serious talk, this time. AP

'Don't lose your idealism'

By Frank Cimatu
Fort del Pilar, Baguio City

ONE LESSON in retrospect for coup plotters is to clean up your records. For Capt. Gerardo Orpilla Gambala, it means striking a more respectable pose than what he had in the Philippine Military Academy yearbook.

The PMA Marilag Class of 1995's yearbook "The Sword" had Gambala posing with a white towel wrapped around his waist, looking like a *labandera* (laundrywoman).

Gambala, known then by his nickname "Kaspog," had this motto: "Always face your problem even though your problem is your face. Always smile."

He described himself as "Dark and ________."

"To all those who think I'm beautiful, *mabuhay kayong lahat*," Gambala said.

It was Gambala who read Magdalo's statement on television during the Makati siege. He, together with Captains Albert Baloloy and Milo Maestrecampo, met with their *mistahs* (classmates) who tried to convince them to surrender.

Calling himself "beautiful" is more of a play with their class name because *marilag* means beautiful.

Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV, acknowledged as the leader of the Magdalo group, was more somber in the yearbook. He described himself prophetically as "a simple person with a big dream." His motto: "Your vision—my mission."

Whose vision he tried to push through during the mutiny on July 27 remained to be known.

Sonny, as Trillanes was known to his *mistahs*, was a member of the honor committee and the hop committee. He was a member of the Pocket Billiard Club and the Arts Guild.

Sharpshooter

He is also a sharpshooter just like most of the Magdalo leaders.

Baloloy took up AB English at the Ateneo de Naga before entering the PMA. He was the marathon runner of the class and received the disaster and relief badge and the presidential unit citation badge.

Quoting Sathya Sri Baba, Baloloy said: "Be what you profess to be, speak what you intend to do, utter what you have experienced, no more, no less."

That probably may be the gist of what the Magdalo leaders had aspired for in their statement.

Maestrecampo, known as "Mai," was a wrestler and campus journalist. When he bawled out the rowdy journalists on Sunday, he knew how it was to be "a part of the problem," having been a staff member of The Peemayer, a cadet pamphlet.

Born in Talisay City in Negros Occidental, Maestrecampo studied mechanical engineering at the Technological University of the Philippines before entering the PMA. He was the class guitarist and folk singer.

"Keep building your castle though your castle falls, for your greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time you fall. If you fight, fight hard," Mestrecampo said in their yearbook.

Other Magdalo leaders in the Marilag Class include Lt. Senior Grade Laurence Louis Somera, known as "Soms" or "Somers." Somera was a sportsman, excelling in judo, track and field, and wrestling. He even won a bronze medal in judo during the Baguio regional tournament.

He was described as a class idol and "a son a mother can be proud of and a lover a sweetheart can trust."

The yearbook described him as "a skagger machine, but you may wonder how he maintains to be in tiptop shape in spite of his smoking habit."

He quoted the great French aphorist, Le Rochefoucauld: "True bravery is shown by performing without witness what one might be capable of doing before all the world."

Another class sportsman is Capt. James Layug, who grew up in Fort Bonifacio. He excelled in swimming, archery, scuba diving, golf, taekwondo, rifle and pistol shooting, and bodybuilding.

He was also a peer counselor and his favorite quote was from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians: "I can do all things in the Lord who strengthens me."

"He epitomized the future of the Philippine Navy," the yearbook described Layug. "He may look like a hard-boiled individual but he's one of the gentlest persons."

His counsel to his peers? "*Tuloy-tuloy na—para sa bayan.*"

Except for Layug, who was born in 1970, the leaders of Magdalo were all born in 1971, the year when Sen. Gregorio Honasan graduated from the PMA.

Lt. Jose Enrico Dingle, who belonged to the PMA Mabikas Class of 1996, was also born on Sept. 6, 1971. During his cadet days, he was a judo player and a marksman.

First Lt. Warren Lee Dagupon of the PMA Kalasag-Lahi Class of 1997, was born on May 8, 1971. From Barangay San Vicente in Baguio City, "Dagz" was a cross-country runner as well as a judoka and boxer.

Dagupon's motto: "It's all in the mind."

Also from Class 1997 is Lt. Lawrence San Juan, known as "Sanjo" or "SJ." Born in Rizal on July 3, 1972, San Juan excelled in karate, softball, baseball and mountain biking.

He draws inspiration from Rizal's character of Ibarra in Noli Me Tangere: "*Kung saan ang panganib, doon ka pumaroon sapagkat doon naroroon ang karangalan.*"

'Idealistic'

Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion Jr., who recently retired as Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson and former dean of the PMA corps of professors, said he could not remember the hundreds of plebes who graduated from the academy.

"But I recall three names: Trillanes, Baloloy and Gambala. They got high grades in their IQ and neuropsychiatric exams. These people are silent but they are very good," Purificacion said.

"As a class, they are intelligent and idealistic," he added.

Col. Tadeo Claravall, the current dean of the corps of professors, said the Marilag Class was the first to handle female cadets, which accounted probably for the "grace under pressure" they handled the guests at the Oakwood

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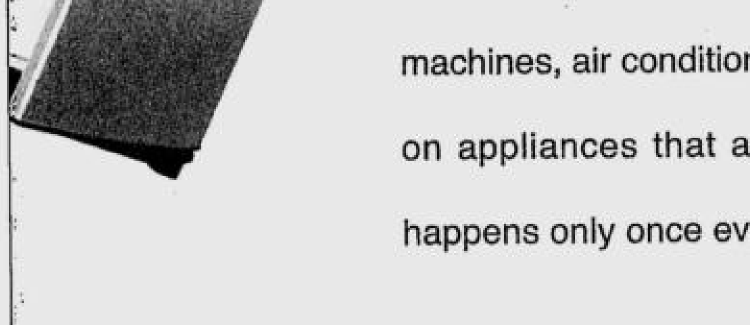

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PMA cadets get lessons on activism

AT EXACTLY 11 a.m. last Sunday, the Philippine Military Academy cadets' council of commanders engaged their academy superintendent, Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, in a no-holds-barred discussion about the mutiny in Makati City.

Their question was simple: What is so wrong about Philippine society today for members of the PMA Classes of 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1999 to mine a shopping and hotel district to air their grievances?

Adan's response was equally candid, said Maj. Edgard Arevalo, PMA spokesperson. "The superintendent told them that the grievances presented by (Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes, the mutineers' spokesperson) were actually legitimate. (Adan) admitted to the cadets that what concerns him is that the (mutineers) want to make outright changes, when this process naturally takes a long process," he said.

Beset again by criticisms that the academy was spawning military adventurers following the Sunday mutiny, this interaction revealed the "more human" changes that had altered the landscape of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Arevalo said Adan wanted to feel out the cadets' reactions to the mutiny when he sat with them. Because Sundays are usually "liberty" days for most cadets, "they were already well-versed about the Makati incident because most of them had seen the television broadcasts or had been listening over the radio," he said.

Unlike the mutineers of PMA Classes of 1971 and 1972, whose "adventurism" led to the 1986 Edsa Revolution and to a subsequent series of failed coup attempts against the government of President Corazon Aquino, the Magdalo group involved "fairly recent PMA graduates."

"They are curious because the issues of corruption in the (AFP) could be issues they may be confronting when they graduate. Trillanes insisted that the primary grievances Malacañang ignored is the unexplained presence of government-issued military hardware in the hands of communist and Muslim rebels, and the graft benefiting top-ranking military officials," a PMA official said. *Vincent Cabreza*

CAPT. Milo "Mai" Maestrecampo: "If you fight, fight hard." VAL HANDUMON

Don't lose . . .

From page A16

Premier apartment complex and their meeting with the negotiators and the reporters.

"They had to adjust on how to handle the female cadets. They had training in gender sensitivity, which we didn't have in our time. They were able to adjust well," Claravall said.

They were also the first to be under the new tri-service curriculum where they were given three Bachelor of Science degrees to choose from aside from their choice of what service in the Armed Forces to enter. They could have degrees in either in engineering, computer science or management.

Purificacion said the PMA culture should not be blamed for why these "gentlemen" were suddenly described as "rogue soldiers" by the government and the media.

"Their development as soldiers did not start in the academy. It starts when he faces reality. The nation makes them. PMA gave them education and the specific knowledge to become military officers. Their idealism comes from their characters," he said.

"Some of them fought in Mindanao. That's where they learned how to really survive. Here in the PMA, they have the tools to achieve their goals. But there, they don't have bullets and other tools and they are expected to perform. That's when they see that something is wrong and that is what they are fighting for," Claravall said.

"Their alienation can be seen in their experiences," he added.

"If ever, there is an advice I can give these men and the people who will handle them, it is this: Don't lose your idealism. Be professional," Purificacion said.

And to Gambala, don't lose that sense of humor.

'Harurot' shows how Baguio treats trees

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

SUPERTYPHOON "Harurot's" 130 kilometer-per-hour winds toppled more than 30 pine trees in Baguio last week, revealing just how badly the city had been taking care of its trees.

Experts said the uprooted trees bore signs of wear-and-tear due to overpopulation and the intrusion of concrete landscapes.

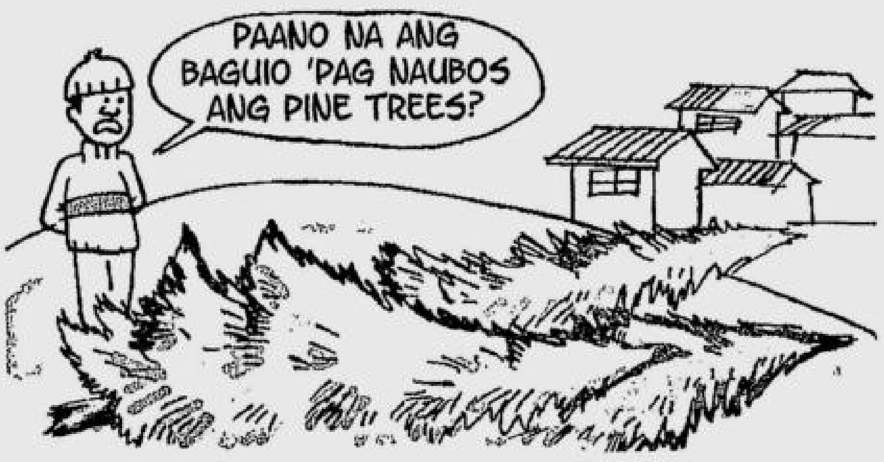
The trees appeared to have been ravaged by a 30-year-old disease that had been claiming more victims in recent years.

Jose Taguba, city administrator, said the fallen trees damaged five houses and barely missed their occupants.

One of the oldest trees at the 80-year-old Baguio Cathedral compound crashed on a newly built gate that allowed vehicular access to a church-owned shopping mall nearby. Another tree barely missed a cottage inside Camp John Hay.

Several more trees short-circuited primary power transmission lines, prompting the Benguet Electric Cooperative to sustain a partial blackout in the city until it could make repairs.

Weather observer Efren Aquino said Harurot's center winds were strong but "not unusual" for a typhoon of such nature.


PAANO NA ANG BAGUIO 'PAG NAUBOS ANG PINE TREES?

Julius Cawilan, a government forester with the Baguio Regreening Movement (BRM), said heavy development work had taken its toll on most pine trees in the more populated areas.

Cawilan, chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Cordillera forest research and management division, said most of the city's pine trees had been vulnerable since the 1970s to the *ips caligapus*, a local variant of the tree borer.

Man-made environment

But the more recent tests showed that the hardy pine tree, which thrives in cold-weather areas like Baguio, had been succumbing to a man-made environment.

"Usually, if the tree is over mature, then its roots are weak and that would explain some of the fallen trees. But we also see grown trees that are cemented in place. Trees need enough space for air, and enough open soil so rainwater can seep down to their roots," Cawilan said in Filipino.

"Sometimes a road is built near the tree or a high rise is to be built across it so it becomes necessary to cement parts of the areas where its roots lie. We usually direct developers to leave the tree about a meter of open soil from its roots but there are times developers (or government agencies) ignore these instructions. Then the tree suffocates," he said.

Baguio's topography is sometimes hostile to trees, Cawilan said. "There are certain areas in Baguio where the topsoil is thin, so roots there have nothing to thrive on. But Baguio's topsoil is healthy generally, and we usually have some three feet of sturdy topsoil to nourish pine trees," he said.

However, even the natural topsoil in the city has given way to an unrelenting urban sprawl, Cawilan added.

Old photographs of the Baguio hillsides show little sign of the pine tree line that is common today.

But Cawilan said the pine tree "naturally propagates in open grasslands." He said the forest cover would still have preceded "heavy infrastructure development."

The BRM has been at the center of a campaign to repopulate the city with pine trees. Cawilan said the DENR annually refreshed its stock of 20,000 pine seedlings because of the regreening movement.

"The survival rate of these trees is usually 82 percent. But we monitor where these are planted because we discourage trees from being planted on land that would later host a building or a house. People nowadays consider the pine tree as an ornament, so we tell them trees won't survive staying too close to human habitat," he said.

To date, no agency has an actual inventory of Baguio's remaining pine cover.

The only pine tree count was done for Camp John Hay. The former American reservation has 115,679 pine trees in its 290-hectare leased area, Gillian Yabut-Cortes, vice president of Camp John Hay Development Corp., said.

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Palace: State of rebellion stays until ...

From page A1

"The reason for this is that there are still some loose ends in connection with the July 27 incident," Bunye said.

"What is becoming clear at this point is there are some political elements and their participation took place before, during and probably a little after the July 27 incident. So their participation will have to be looked into," he said.

He said there were many indications that the renegade soldiers received outside support, including the presence of supplies that are not normally available to the regular officers and men of the Armed Forces.

He said private funding could also have been used when the renegade soldiers checked into the Oakwood hotel, a luxury serviced-apartment at the heart of the Ayala Center, even before the actual coup.

A Palace official said the rebel soldiers checked into seven rooms at Oakwood last Friday, more than a day before its leaders came out and planted bombs in the area.

On Sunday night, Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao said the state of rebellion was "de facto lifted" when the Magdalo mutiny was quelled.

Estrada's involvement?

Asked if the President believed that deposed President Joseph Estrada was involved in the conspiracy, Bunye replied: "We're not pointing any fingers at this time."

Bunye said the government was looking at all angles in the July 27 mutiny.

"We do not wish to point fingers at any particular group but right now the physical evidence would tend to show that the mutineers could not have launched this without any outside help," Bunye said.

He said National Security Adviser Roilo Golez and Interior Secretary Jose Lina were more certain of Estrada's involvement because they were directly involved in the investigation of the mutiny.

"What we're saying is even from the point of view of one who has not physically participated in the investigation, these evidences show that some outside participation took place," Bunye said.

He said the use of two houses belonging to Estrada and his mistress Laarni Enriquez and former aide, Ramon Cardenas as staging grounds of the rebel soldiers bolstered the conspiracy theory.

He also denied that the arrest of ex-Presidential Management Staff chief Ramon Cardenas, who is now Estrada's chief of staff, was politically motivated.

Rebellion charges

The Department of Justice filed rebellion charges against Cardenas yesterday.

The DOJ filed the case in the Makati Regional Trial Court after the mutineers allegedly used his house in Dasmariñas Village in Makati City as a staging area for the mutiny.

Rebellion carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison and is non-bailable.

The lawyers found in Cardenas' house at No. 2177 Paraiso St., Dasmariñas Village, one M-14 and three M-16 assault rifles, assorted live ammunition, several boxes containing Philippine flags and red armbands similar to the ones used by the rebel soldiers, 30 backpacks containing personal belongings, and several pieces of empty grenade cases.

The authorities also confiscated several rebel documents, including the rebel soldiers' alleged "plan of action."

After reviewing the evidence, the DOJ panel of prosecutors investigating the case, led by State Prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon, found enough probable cause to indict Cardenas as a "promoter or maintainer of the rebellion."

"(Cardenas), by allowing rebel military forces, who have publicly taken up arms against the government of the Republic of the Philippines ... to use his residence ... as a staging point for their rebellious activities may be considered as a promoter or maintainer of the rebellion," the DOJ resolution read.

State Prosecutor Lawrence Chua Cheng V said that the DOJ resolution was based only on the evidence submitted by the NBI since Cardenas declined to present his side.

He said he "specifically asked" Cardenas during his inquest at the DOJ on Friday night about his response to the charges but Cardenas' "lawyer butted in."

Abraham Espejo, Cardenas' counsel, said they had decided to face the charges in court.

"We can only say that my client is innocent. We believe he is a victim of political persecution," said Espejo on Friday.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said Cardenas' lawyers could file a motion for determination of probable cause before the Makati court if they wanted to challenge the DOJ's findings.

Reports surfaced that Cardenas allegedly had not stayed at 2177 Paraiso Street in the past three years because it was being rented out.

His house is allegedly at 1346 Palm Avenue, also in Dasmariñas Village.

But NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said that Cardenas said in his statement of assets and liabilities that his residence was in Paraiso Street.

Not planted

Wycoco said the evidence could not have been planted because TV crews from three television stations were present when the house was searched.

Two village security guards, Rodolfo Legaspi and a certain Martin, were also present, he added.

The DOJ resolution also stated that the Palm Avenue house was also put under surveillance after the police received reports that armed soldiers were seen there on Saturday.

Chief Insp. Elbert Pagente, Senior Insp. Marcelino Robles, and Insp. Danilo Mendoza, of the National Capital Region Criminal investigation and Detection Unit, told the DOJ that they put the Palm and Paraiso houses under surveillance on Saturday after receiving reports that armed men in military uniform were seen frequenting both houses.

Another NBI official, Assistant Director Lolito Utitco, also argued that the evidence couldn't have been planted, because it would have taken months to sew the armbands and banners found in Cardenas' house.

"(The production of the banners) cannot be done overnight," Utitco told reporters.

Bunye also denied that Cardenas' rights had been denied.

"The fact that he's adequately represented by a battery of lawyers shows that he has not been deprived of his basic rights as an accused. His rights are being observed and protected and he's assisted by very fine lawyers," Bunye said. ***With reports from Christian Esguerra, Philip Tubeza, Leila Salaverria, Margaux Ortiz, Gil Cabacungan***

Lawmaker, gov, MILF confirm sale of gov't guns

From page A1

by the MNLF from military commanders at P25,000 to P30,000, according to Macarambon. He said the MNLF was buying weapons not in bulk but in 10s or 20s.

The MILF, formed in 1984, has been fighting for a separate Islamic estate in Mindanao, while the MNLF, which Nur Misuari formed in 1971 to fight for a separate Moro state in Mindanao, signed a peace agreement with the government in 1996.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said his group might have bought weapons that belonged to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In Baguio City, Cordillera officials said the National Peace and Order Council has records of the reported sale of government ammunition to rebels.

The congressman said military personnel were selling their own firearms and ammunition to the MNLF without removing the serial numbers.

"That was why some of the military officers, when they confiscated or recovered the Armalites or M-14s and other equipment in the battlefield, they found out that these came from their own armory," Macarambon said.

Asked if the sale had the consent of the military hierarchy in Camp Aguinaldo, Macarambon said he was not sure.

"I could not say that it had the consent of the GHQ (general headquarters). That would be unfair. I really could not say if it's at the higher level."

Big lie

Government arsenal director Eriberto Varona brushed off allegations by the mutineers that the defense department had been selling arms and ammunition to rebel groups and the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

In a statement, Varona said the sale of arms to any group outside the military was impossible, noting that firearms are hauled from the government arsenal into the AFP Logistics Command "under heavy security."

"This is a big, big lie. As director of the arsenal since January 2000, please allow me to state for the information of the Filipino citizenry that we at your government arsenal have never done nor will do this," he said.

Varona, however, admitted that arms could land into the hands of the "enemies" following clashes and "through the handiwork of scalawags." He did not elaborate.

Asked if the MILF was still getting arms from the military, Macarambon said, "we have the same experience."

Black market

Interviewed over radio dyLA, Kabalu said the MILF had no direct deals with the AFP as they were buying guns and bullets from local "dealers."

Kabalu said that while their high-powered firearms were obtained "abroad," most of their ammunition and many of their M-16 rifles, which are the same as those issued to soldiers, came from the Mindanao black market.

"It's possible that some of our weapons came from the AFP. If the weapons are available and we have the money, we buy them," he said. "We no longer bother to determine the source of the weapons because these are commodities.

Kabalu explained that in Mindanao, guns and ammunition were considered "commodities" available to those who can afford them.

"We don't need to go (directly) to the AFP to obtain ammunition or firearms if we need them because there are people who ask us if we want them because they have some available. Very simple," Kabalu said.

Kabalu said the MILF had no indication that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes had a hand in the selling of weapons to their group.

Davao bombings

But he said the MILF was very happy with the revelations of the mutineers that top military officials, Reyes in particular, were involved in the bombings in Davao City.

"At least, we are exonerated. It was a vindication for us because we have been saying all along that the MILF has nothing to do with the Davao bombings. Now, the truth has come out. We are happy," Kabalu said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, upon Reyes' request, has formed a commission to investigate the allegations against the defense secretary. The charge has been denied by Reyes.

Macarambon said he was leaving it to the presidential commission and the Senate committee of the whole to investigate the allegations of the mutineers.

In Baguio City, suspected culprits were police officers, not military men, said Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas, who was chair of the Cordillera Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) in 2001 when this information was transmitted to him.

Molintas and Mt. Province Vice Gov. Anthony Wooden released the information at a news briefing after Ms Macapagal said in her State of the Nation Address that she would form a commission to investigate the Department of National Defense's alleged links to illegal arms deals with rebels.

Molintas said he was surprised by the testimony of Lt. (sg) Antonio Trillanes IV, spokesperson of the mutineers belonging to the Magdalo group, that the illegal sale of government-issued weapons and ammunition had extended beyond a few corrupt policemen. ***With a report from TJ Burgonio***

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5 mutiny leaders 'incommunicado'

From page A1

Trillanes, the outspoken leader of the Magdalo group, had been gagged by his superiors ever since he and his co-plotters returned to barracks Sunday night.

He and Layug were held inside the Naval Intelligence and Security Office at the Bonifacio Naval Station in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, a highly reliable source said.

"They are not allowed to give interviews or receive visitors for the time being," the source said.

But AFP chief Gen. Narciso Abaya said Trillanes had been transferred to Camp Aguinaldo. "If you're going to ask if he can be interviewed, definitely no," Abaya told reporters.

Trillanes described the government move as treachery in an interview aired on radio shortly before military intelligence officers took him into custody.

"They have reneged on their part of the bargain," he said, claiming that during negotiations for their surrender, the government had guaranteed they would not be detained.

"This is a warning to the government: We'll have to handle this correctly, properly, because not all of us have been accounted for. Otherwise it will explode on their faces again," Trillanes said.

Abaya said he would press for the formation of several courts martial to conduct simultaneous trials on the mutineers.

He said there would be "several investigating teams" working at the same time. "I don't know the setup when the trial starts, but there might be several courts martial," he said in an ambush interview.

"We would like to finish the trial as soon as possible so that we can put this to rest," he added.

Agence France Presse quoted military spokesperson Col. Daniel Lucero as saying on radio that the task force convened by Abaya would be composed of 10 teams from the major services.

"The result of the investigation will determine the organization of the court martial," Lucero said, adding:

"We will give them a fair trial. We will give them a day in court to explain their side."

Volunteer counsel

Guevarra told the INQUIRER that he phoned Trillanes and volunteered to serve as counsel as early as Saturday night, or a few hours before the officer and his men seized the Oakwood Premier serviced apartments.

The lawyer said his offer would most likely not be accepted because the rebel soldiers might be provided their own counsel should they be tried under a court martial.

Guevarra said he called Trillanes by cell phone at about 1:30 p.m. yesterday and was told that the mutineers would be transferred to the Isafp headquarters. He said he advised the officer against agreeing to the transfer.

He said that Trillanes phoned him about an hour later to say they were in transit to the Isafp headquarters, and that when he tried to call the officer shortly before 4 p.m., the latter's cell phone appeared to have been turned off.

Guevarra also said the transfer of the mutiny leaders could mean that the Macapagal administration would renege on its promise to address their grievances.

A task force led by the inspector general, Lt. Gen. Librado Ladia, is looking into the culpability of the rebel soldiers under the Articles of War.

Quoting Article 67, a source who requested anonymity said "military personnel who attempt to create or join a mutiny or sedition ... shall suffer the penalty of death or such other punishments as the court martial may direct."

"But of course, there are mitigating and aggravating circumstances," the source added.

Pushups

Abaya denied that the plotters of previous coup attempts against the Aquino administration were penalized with a mere round of pushups.

"Several of them were discharged, several of them were confined, some were detained, but when there was a peace negotiation, amnesty was proclaimed so all of those who were involved were given amnesty," he said.

He was referring to the amnesty granted the coup plotters following a peace agreement with then President Fidel V. Ramos in 1995.

Abaya also dismissed talk that a section of the military had remained demoralized. "Our troops have a very high morale," he declared.

'Just a blip,' continues to torment peso, stocks

From page A1

The peso plunged to a low of 54.75 to the US dollar in Tuesday's trading before closing at 54.67, down from Monday's close of 54.38 at the Philippine Dealing System. Volume was relatively heavy at $171.5 million, up from $118 million on Monday.

Volatility in the foreign exchange market spilled into the stock market.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 31.53 points, or 2.5 percent, at 1,225.23, adding to Monday's 2.1-percent decline. Tuesday's fall brought the cumulative loss of the main index to 5.9 percent since last Wednesday.

The peso's value and stock prices began slumping on Friday amid rumors of a military coup. Although the standoff in Makati City ended without bloodshed, investors fear the 22-hour mutiny may presage more turmoil in the run-up to the presidential election next May.

Ms Macapagal, however, insisted the mutiny by disgruntled junior officers hardly dimmed prospects of a modest economic growth this year.

"The normal course of governance and business has been quickly restored. There has been a setback in confidence but the fundamentals are sound and stable," the President said in a statement.

"This is a blip [on] the screen that does not forebode instability. The Armed Forces is fully united and staying the course of reform and modernization," she added.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the government was sticking to its 2003 economic targets for now.

"There is no need to change the [macroeconomic] numbers unless there is a discernable change in the trend," she told reporters.

The government earlier set a 2003 target for gross domestic product (GDP) growth of between 4.2 and 5.2 percent, with inflation projected at between 4.5 and 5.5 percent.

It also expects interest rates, as reflected by the bellweather 91-day Treasury bills, to average between 7 to 8 percent.

Ms Macapagal's economic managers were scheduled to meet yesterday to discuss the economic impact of the weekend mutiny, Boncodin said.

"It's too early [to make any revision]. Maybe after a quarter, we will have to make an assessment on the effect of the Makati incident on our economy," she said.

55-level crucial

Forex dealers said the August-September pre-Christmas seasonal surge in imports would ensure a weak bias for the peso.

Even so, analysts said the 55 per dollar level was crucial for the peso. The peso last traded above this level in March, when worries about the US-Iraq war and the domestic economy shook investor confidence. The peso hit a record low of 55.75 in January 2001, when former President Joseph Estrada was ousted.

James Malcolm, currency strategist at JP Morgan Chase in Singapore, said he would raise his yearend target for the peso to 58 per dollar from 56, to reflect higher political risk ahead of the presidential election.

"There is more concern about the political situation and rising political risk would send more local corporates looking to hedge their dollar payments," he said.

Malcolm said foreign exchange reserves of about $16 billion meant the Philippine central bank might not be able to counter the pressure on peso.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, however, said he expected the peso to hover at the 53-54 per dollar range in the fourth quarter, supported by a recovery in exports and remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

Stocks

Losers outnumbered gainers 59 to 25, with 30 stocks unchanged, during Tuesday's trading at the local bourse. Some P713.2 million worth of stocks exchanged hands.

Traders said the mutiny had clearly unsettled the stock market, adding the return of investor confidence would depend on how an investigation was carried out.

"Market jitters prevailed after the weekend events and foreigners were seen on the sell side toward the close of session," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com.

"Investors are staying out of the market and waiting for concrete results of the investigation and what will happen next. There are also uncertainties as far as the corporate earnings are concerned," he added.

Astro del Castillo, director for the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines, said uncertainty in the market might continue until it became clear who were the backers of the mutiny and how the government intended to deal with the mutineers.

"There are a lot of questions that remain unanswered, like who is really behind [the mutiny] and if that's the end of it," he said.

AB Capital Securities economist Jose Vistan said "peso-denominated assets are becoming less attractive because of the perceived higher risk arising from the mutiny."

"The [peso] depreciation, in turn, will cause foreign exchange losses to big companies who have dollar-denominated debts," Vistan said. "There will be lingering effect [from the mutiny] within the next few weeks until the market finds a base for bargain-hunting."

Not exciting enough

Other dealers said the President's State of the Nation Address on Monday was not enough to excite the market even though Ms Macapagal vowed to reduce the cost of doing business during her remaining months in office.

"The Sona signals the start of political season," said Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas. "I don't really mind if the President runs again, but that means people will start throwing stones at her again."

Roxas also noted the start of the so-called "ghost" season when Chinese-Filipino avoid making investment decisions and just stay on the sidelines.

"It's the Chinese equivalent of All Saints Day except that it's a whole month. During this period, nothing is started, no wedding, no opening of new business, no moving to a new house," he said. ***Reports from Doris Dumlao, Gil C. Cabacungan, AP, AFP and Reuters***

FPJ, Erap . . .

From page A1

had engaged the services of a security agency to guard his residence in Greenhills, San Juan and his rest house in Antipolo.

"He is afraid that law enforcers will plant evidence in his house and claim that it had been used as a staging area by rebel (Magdalo) soldiers," said the source, who asked not to be named.

The source said Poe was just taking precautions after government forces "found" weapons and Magdalo armbands at the residence of Ramon "Eki" Cardenas, Estrada's former chief of the Presidential Management Staff, in Dasmariñas Village, Makati. Government forces also found ammunition and Magdalo armbands at a townhouse of Estrada mistress Laarni Enriquez in San Juan.

"His (Poe's) suspicions were raised when he saw people tailing his car since last Monday," the source said of Poe.

'Planted'

In a separate interview, Estrada complained that the search at Laarni's house without a warrant and the arrest of Cardenas, also without a warrant, showed that laws no longer applied in the country.

"They searched his house in his absence. They took him even if he doesn't live there. There's no more rule of law," he complained, reiterating that the arms and armbands were planted in Cardenas' house.

Estrada said the government may find itself in bigger trouble if it continued to link him and his friends to the mutiny instead of addressing the grievances of the mutinous soldiers.

Estrada is detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City on charges of plunder, an unbailable offense.

On Sunday, as the mutineers took control of the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center in Makati, police moved Estrada from the VMMC to Camp Aguinaldo, the military headquarters. He was later brought back to the VMCC on the same day.

Plot to spring Estrada

PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane yesterday confirmed to the Sandiganbayan that there was indeed a plan to spring Estrada out of the VMCC.

"The PNP has strong reason to believe, based on intelligence (reports), that a rally at the VMMC would be held by pro-Estrada supporters and that some elements, while the situation in Makati was ongoing, would rescue the former President and take him to an undisclosed location," Ebdane said.

He disclosed the alleged plot in a manifestation submitted to the anti-graft court to justify Estrada's transfer to Camp Aguinaldo.

Ebdane said the transfer of Estrada was a "preventive measure so as not to endanger the safety and security of the former President."

The PNP also considered bringing Estrada to a cell in Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, but this was not done because Nur Misuari, former chair of the Moro National Liberation Front, was occupying it, according to Ebdane.

Ebdane was replying to a motion from defense lawyers Alan Paguia and Manuel Pamaran to cite him and Chief Supt. Prospero Noble for indirect contempt for transferring Estrada to a military camp without an order from the Sandiganbayan.

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FPJ, Erap . . .

From page A1

had engaged the services of a security agency to guard his residence in Greenhills, San Juan and his rest house in Antipolo.

"He is afraid that law enforcers will plant evidence in his house and claim that it had been used as a staging area by rebel (Magdalo) soldiers," said the source, who asked not to be named.

The source said Poe was just taking precautions after government forces "found" weapons and Magdalo armbands at the residence of Ramon "Eki" Cardenas, Estrada's former chief of the Presidential Management Staff, in Dasmariñas Village, Makati. Government forces also found ammunition and Magdalo armbands at a townhouse of Estrada mistress Laarni Enriquez in San Juan.

"His (Poe's) suspicions were raised when he saw people tailing his car since last Monday," the source said of Poe.

'Planted'

In a separate interview, Estrada complained that the search at Laarni's house without a warrant and the arrest of Cardenas, also without a warrant, showed that laws no longer applied in the country.

"They searched his house in his absence. They took him even if he doesn't live there. There's no more rule of law," he complained, reiterating that the arms and armbands were planted in Cardenas' house.

Estrada said the government may find itself in bigger trouble if it continued to link him and his friends to the mutiny instead of addressing the grievances of the mutinous soldiers.

Estrada is detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City on charges of plunder, an unbailable offense.

On Sunday, as the mutineers took control of the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center in Makati, police moved Estrada from the VMMC to Camp Aguinaldo, the military headquarters. He was later brought back to the VMCC on the same day.

Plot to spring Estrada

PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane yesterday confirmed to the Sandiganbayan that there was indeed a plan to spring Estrada out of the VMCC.

"The PNP has strong reason to believe, based on intelligence (reports), that a rally at the VMMC would be held by pro-Estrada supporters and that some elements, while the situation in Makati was ongoing, would rescue the former President and take him to an undisclosed location," Ebdane said.

He disclosed the alleged plot in a manifestation submitted to the anti-graft court to justify Estrada's transfer to Camp Aguinaldo.

Ebdane said the transfer of Estrada was a "preventive measure so as not to endanger the safety and security of the former President."

The PNP also considered bringing Estrada to a cell in Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, but this was not done because Nur Misuari, former chair of the Moro National Liberation Front, was occupying it, according to Ebdane.

Ebdane was replying to a motion from defense lawyers Alan Paguia and Manuel Pamaran to cite him and Chief Supt. Prospero Noble for indirect contempt for transferring Estrada to a military camp without an order from the Sandiganbayan.

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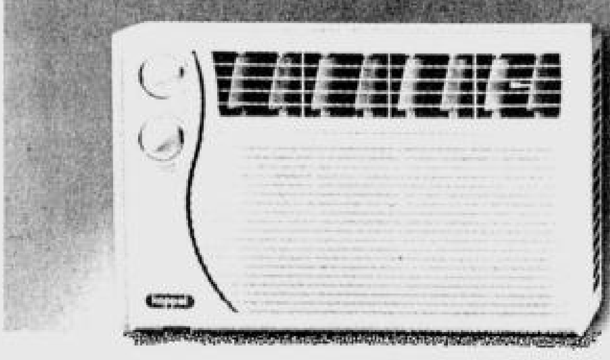

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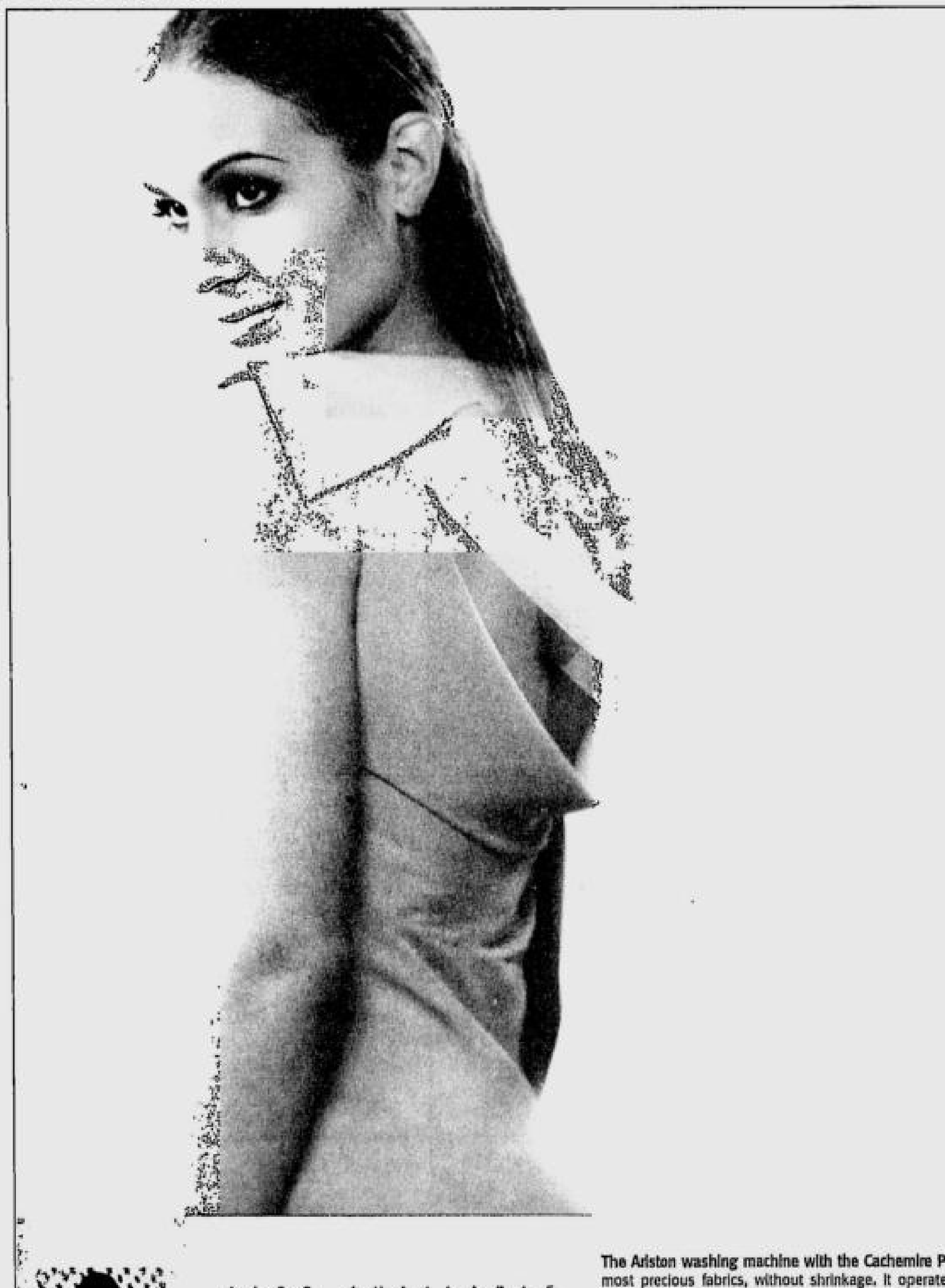

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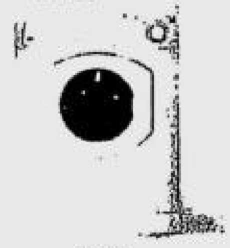

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'If we never learn . . . we might be nursing mutiny again'

(This is the full text of the homily delivered by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday at the Thanksgiving Mass for Peace at the Edsa Shrine. ED.)

WE are gathered in this holy shrine to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Eucharist means thanksgiving and indeed there are many reasons for us to thank God.

We thank the Lord for the swift and peaceful resolution to the mutiny last Sunday. We thank the Lord for our leaders who stood firm yet remained open to dialogue. We thank the Lord for the countless religious seminarians and lay faithful who flocked to this holy ground and their respective churches to intercede for peace in our land. Although their means was immoral and illegal, nevertheless we thank the soldiers of the mutiny for calling the attention of the nation to the evils of corruption. But above all, we thank the Lord for leading us to the victory of peace.

Victory of dialogue

But what is this victory of peace? It is not the victory of one side and the surrender or humiliation of the other. Neither is it the subjugation by force of one over the other. The victory of peace that the Lord is leading us into is the victory of dialogue. After this thanksgiving, all of us are challenged to work toward a meeting of minds, to a path of openness and acceptance, to the road of sincere collaboration and honest partnership. These are the lessons we must learn and accept as we offer our thanksgiving to God.

There are many reasons for thanksgiving, yet we likewise admit the call for reform. Every sector of society, including the Church, needs reform. We cannot and must not deny that so much is yet to be accomplished and fulfilled. So many poor people still await adequate food and medicine, decent shelter, proper educational and employment opportunities. Our young people need to be protected from the pangs of illegal drugs, violence, pornography and loss of moral values.

We still need to stamp out graft and corruption, too much politicking and bickering in public service. The problem of insurgency cannot be solved by the military alone. Peace is not achieved at gunpoint but through human development. The Mindanao problem must be solved through more livelihood and infrastructure, not through more bullets and arms. Yes, we still need reforms. We still need to lift the fog of evil in our midst.

But in realizing these reforms, let us be reminded that: "Darkness is not dissipated with arms; it is removed with lamps of light." The way of violence never builds. It always destroys. Hostility can never give birth to hope. It only breeds hatred and division. Genuine reform can only happen if it is built on justice, goodness and peace. Let us therefore commit ourselves to constant reform yet rejecting the ways of violence. Let us not overcome evil with evil. Rather, let us overcome evil with good!

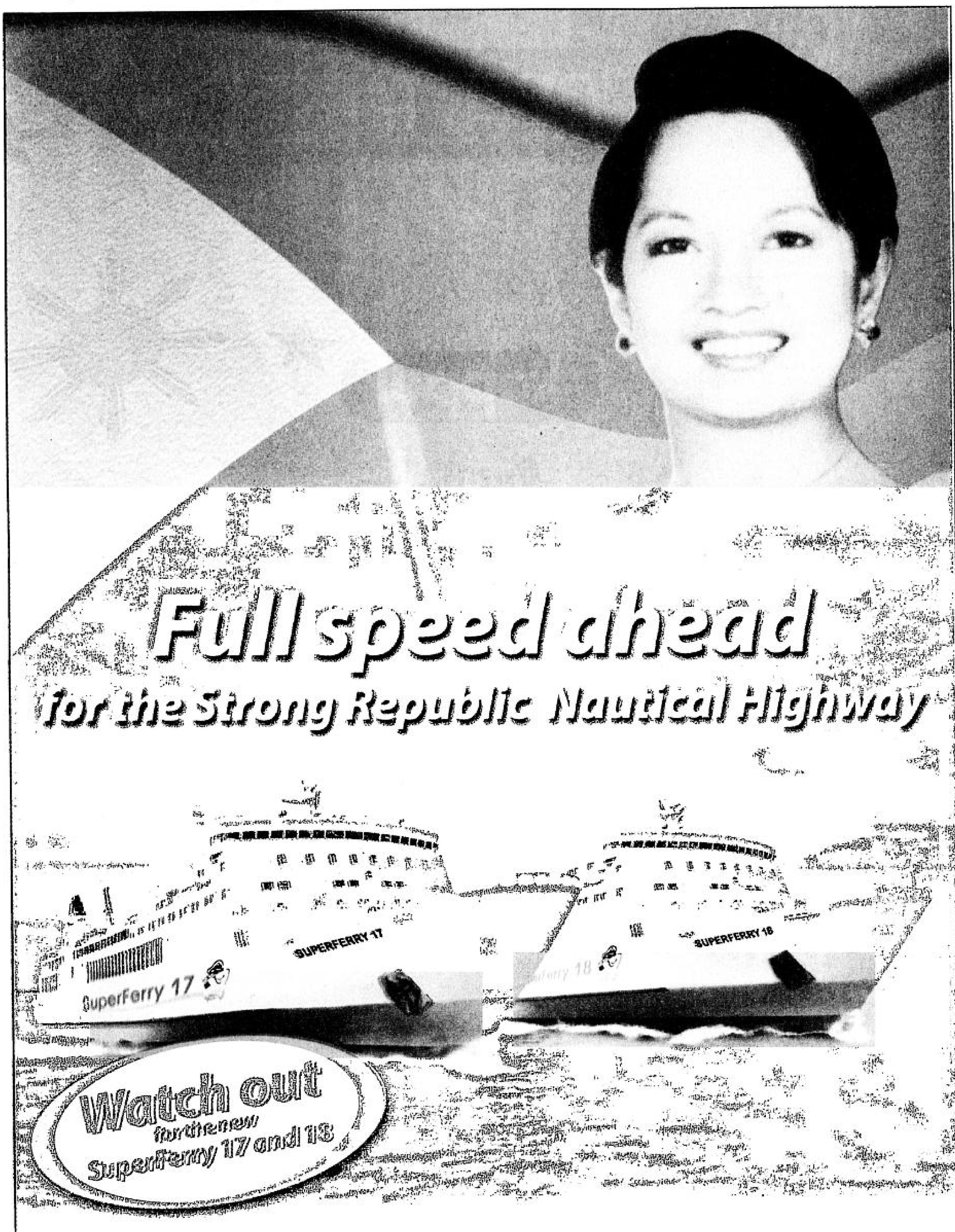
Thus, we can only complete the victory of peace and the call to reform if we focus on issues, not on personalities, if we set aside personal ambition and selfish interests for the sake of the common good.

Let us not make room for cheap compromises and political exigencies. Let justice be served and discipline be imposed. If we never learn, our thanksgiving today adds to nothing. We might be nursing another mutiny again.

While it is necessary to investigate the perpetrators of the mutiny, it is more urgent to institute reforms right now and attend to the legitimate grievances expressed. Let us not allow our analysis to lead us to paralysis. This is not the time for congratulations. No one won last Sunday. What is needed is immediate reform, firm discipline and a strong will to sustain it.

Ultimately, it is not just our policies and programs that must change; it is our hearts. Peace begins within hearts. It is not simply the absence of violence or conflict. It is a fundamental option, a committed direction toward the good of all. And peace is not simply a human endeavor. It is a sublime gift from God. Let us therefore be sentinels of peace, intercessors for peace.

May God bless our beloved Philippines. May He sow genuine peace and healing in our land. Amen.



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Sin . . .

From page A1

in all sectors, including the Church."

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who attended the Mass that started at 12:15 p.m., has formed two independent bodies to investigate the mutineers' claims that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus had masterminded the bombings in Davao City that killed 38 people and injured scores of civilians.

The bombings were done to justify the purported need for US anti-terrorism aid, the mutineers had said.

They had also claimed that some military officials were selling arms and ammunition to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, National People's Army and Abu Sayyaf.

The President conferred with Sin privately after the Mass.

When she reentered the church minutes later, she was applauded by those who had stayed behind. She shook hands with some of them before leaving.

The Mass was held to celebrate the peaceful return to barracks of the 296 young officers and soldiers who broke ranks and took over the Oakwood Premier serviced apartments in Makati's central business district.

Among the others present were former President Corazon Aquino, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Secretaries Reyes, Dinky Soliman (social welfare) and Cito Lorenzo (agriculture), the top brass, Oakwood owner Fernando Zobel de Ayala, and civil society and religious leaders.

Romulo dislikes homily

Romulo was not particularly happy with the cardinal's homily.

"It's a democratic society and we are listening to him. But we should never condone the use of force and we should let the law and the people prevail," Romulo said.

He also said that while the President was listening to the Church's call, "she already made her decision clear in [Monday's] State of the Nation Address, where she promised to exercise firm and decisive leadership."

On Sin's statement that no one could claim victory last Sunday, Romulo said: "It's the Filipino people and the national government that won because the issue was settled peacefully without bloodshed."

Asked to comment, Reyes said: "That's a homily, and I should not disagree with that in public."

On Sin's suggestion that it was "more urgent" that reforms be instituted now, he said: "That's OK, but reforms take years. In the meantime, what do we do with [the mutineers]?"

Reyes also said that while he agreed with the Church that the government should encourage the expression of the soldiers' legitimate grievances, those with gripes "should not [stage] a coup every time there is a concern."

Pastoral letter

It was after a briefing by Corpus on Saturday, Sin issued a pastoral letter urging the faithful to be alert and ready for action amid destabilization plots against the government.

On Sunday he said that "nobody will support the Magdalo group," and that God will not bless those who "sow violence and spread lies."

In his homily yesterday, the Cardinal stuck to his position that the rebel soldiers' means were immoral and illegal. He said that while there was a need for reforms, these should not be pursued through violent means.

But he also noted that there was "too much politicking and bickering in public service."

"We can only complete this victory of peace and the call to reform if we set aside personal ambition and selfish interests for the sake of the common good," he said, adding:

"Let us not make room for cheap compromises and political exigencies. Let justice be served and discipline be imposed. If we never learn, our thanksgiving today adds to nothing. We might be nursing another mutiny again."

Job done

A collective feeling of relief was evident yesterday among the civil society leaders who set up a "command center" at the Edsa Shrine Saturday to thwart coup plotters from occupying it.

With Sin, they had been briefed by Corpus in Villa San Miguel.

"We've done our job," said Dan Songco of the K1230 Movement, who was among those who attended the thanksgiving Mass.

The "command center" was closed down Monday noon.

But Songco said they would monitor the "independent" probe ordered by the President. He said the episode was not over until the "political powers" behind the mutiny were uncovered.

"It's difficult to think [those officers were] doing this independently," he said. "They're funded. They had logistics."

Songco also said that the rebel soldiers had valid grievances of which certain political personalities could always take advantage as long as these were not addressed.

Soc Banzuela, a K1230 member and peasant organizer, said fisherfolk leaders he spoke with on Monday were convinced that the mutiny was "connected to politics and the 2004 elections."

"It's hard to believe [the soldiers] were on their own," he said. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

Give our son a second chance, rebel captain's folks appeal

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

GIVE Capt. Milo Maestrecampo a second chance because what he did was for "love of country" and for the soldiers at the battlefront.

This appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo was aired yesterday by Milo's parents, both retired public school teachers, who said he had fought for eight years in Mindanao and was peace-loving, law-abiding, obedient and disciplined.

Milo, 32, one of the leaders of the mutiny Sunday in Makati City, is facing court martial for airing the long-ignored grievances of soldiers in the field, said his father Vicente Maestrecampo, of Talisay City, 7.3 km north of Bacolod City.

But Milo and his fellows were forced to do what they did in order to get the President's ear, said Vicente, who taught agriculture at the Talisay High School.

Corpus, Berroya

He pointed out that Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus once stole government firearms from the Philippine Military Academy, joined the communist-led New People's Army, and was now intelligence chief of the Armed Forces, and that Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya had been accused of kidnapping and today held a key post in the Philippine National Police.

He said Milo merely aired soldiers' grievances, an action that paled in comparison with what others had done, and deserved a second chance.

Milo's mother Merlita Discutido-Maestrecampo, who taught science at the Talisay School of Fisheries, recalled his stories of how soldiers in the field had to stretch the essentials, like cooking sardines in plenty of water, to make soup to go with their rice.

She said all she was asking was that if punishment for her son were needed, let it be light because he had acted for the sake of others.

Vicente said Milo had talked about his frustration at the lack of housing for soldiers, the poverty in which their families had to live, and the lack of food and supplies at the battlefront.

He must have been so frustrated as to be driven to join the mutiny, the father said.

Valedictorian

Milo and his only sister Myra, 27, were raised in Talisay.

By the mother's account, Milo graduated valedictorian from the Talisay elementary and high schools.

As early as when he was a second-grader, it became clear that he wanted to be a soldier. He carried around a piece of wood—his makeshift gun—and he marched around the house with it and pretended like he was shooting at an enemy.

At the PMA he was consistently on the dean's list.

Merlita said Milo chose to join the Army and was assigned in Mindanao for eight years after his graduation from the PMA in 1995.

"Every day I went to church to ask God to keep him safe," she said of the son whom she described as good and thoughtful.

She said Milo had not told them of what he was planning to do, which was why they were so surprised to learn from TV reports Saturday night of his involvement in the mutiny.

But she remembered that Milo came home on July 14 and stayed until the next day. Before he left, he hugged his two young children and asked his father to take care of them and his wife Raquel if anything happened to him.

It was the first time he did that, and perhaps it was a sign of what he was planning to do, Merlita said.

She said Milo loved his work, and did what he did at a great sacrifice for the sake of his fellows and the country.

Rotten boots

Like her parents-in-law, Milo's wife Raquel, 27, cited his love of his fellows and concern over their hardships.

She said she was seeking mercy for her husband, adding that the reasons that drove him should be considered.

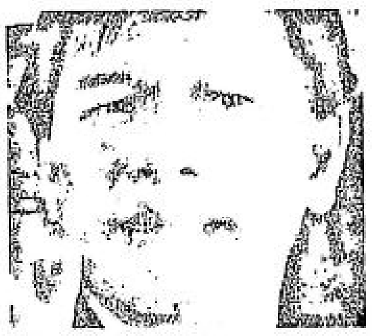
Raquel said Milo used to tell her of the soldiers' hard life, down to the boots that were gaping at the toes.

She said the man she married in 1998 had always been concerned about his men, and even started a foundation to help their children.

Raquel said she had no idea of Milo's involvement in the mutiny until she saw his name on TV Saturday night listed among the 10 "rogue officers" being hunted.

"I immediately called him on his cell phone, and he said he would call me and that I should not worry because he was OK," she said.

She tried to do what he had asked, to be brave, for the children's sake, she said. She touched base with the wives of the other soldiers, and they comforted one another.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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Mystery house no more

By Nelson Flores
and Christian Esguerra

LAARNI Enriquez, alleged mistress of former President Joseph Estrada, was the registered owner of the Mandaluyong townhouse supposedly used as a staging area by soldiers who launched last weekend's mutiny in Makati City.

Citing city government records, Mandalyong Mayor Benhur Abalos said the house at 461 J. Vargas Street, Barangay Addition Hills was bought by Enriquez in 1999. But the same records showed that the house was sold to a Liezel Magpoc of 154 Golf Hills Terraces, Manoyoc Drive, Old Balara, Quezon City on July 2002 for P3.5 million.

Abalos said the house was built by the Joseph Estrada-Luisa Pimentel (JELP) Real Estate Development Corporation, in 1999 without a building permit.

Enriquez bought the house on Nov. 8, 1999 and had been given Transfer Certificate Title No. 15245 by the local registers office, Abalos said. When the house was sold to Magpoc, she received its Transfer Certificate Title No. 17854.

But City Engineer Conrad Anciado said the sale of the property to Magpoc was highly suspicious.

The house was sold for only P3.5 million, which was way below its true market value of at least P6 to P10 million, he said.

Anciado said the person who facilitated the sale and transfer of the deed of property was not Magpoc. It was an engineer of JELP that facilitated the sale and transfer of deed.

Anciado said the woman who went to his office claiming to be Magpoc looked like someone from a slum area, not a resident of a well-off community.

"She looked like she was hard-up," Anciado said.

He also said that when the sale was made, Estrada and his mistresses were already under investigation for alleged ill-gotten wealth.

The townhouse, painted peach and adorned with hanging greens and orchid plants, is in a compound enclosed by high concrete walls.

Its roof can be seen from the corner of Shaw Boulevard and J. Vargas Street. Neighbors referred to it as "the big house."

Each unit in the compound is spacious

MYSTERY/ A23

THIS posh dwelling on J. Vargas Street in Mandaluyong, said to be once owned by Laarni Enriquez, may have served as a staging point for the mutineers before they holed up in Makati's Oakwood Premier, another high-end setting. RUDY ESPERAS

Woman's claim not true, says school principal

By Tarra Quismundo

ROSEMARY Antonio may be poor and in need, but she is fond of making up stories to seek pity.

This was what an official of Zamora Elementary School in Pandacan, Manila had to say about Antonio, 29.

Antonio on Monday had claimed that Zamora officials had told her son to quit school because he has no birth certificate and could not pay for the school identification card.

But school principal Portia Pereña said that they did not kick out her son, Jomari Antonio.

"Never has there been an instance where we kicked out a student," Pereña said. "That student has not been attending school since the suspension of classes last week."

Jomari, a grade 1 pupil in the public school, and his mother were in Manila City Hall last Monday looking for somebody who could help the 10-year-old boy go back to school.

Yesterday, a report on the plight of Antonio and her son came out in this section, prompting kindhearted souls to send in cash donations and pledges of support for the woman's family.

That would have been all right had Antonio been telling the truth.

WOMAN'S/ A23

NBI joins probe of Customs man's ambush

By Leila Salaverria

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has joined the probe of the ambush of Customs collector Felipe Bartolome.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the NBI-National Capital Region division would be conducting a parallel investigation of the ambush, which is under the jurisdiction of the Western Police District.

Wycoco told reporters that the bureau would be conducting the probe on its own, "upon the request of the commissioner of Customs."

The NBI director added that Bureau of Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo wants to know if there is a connection between Bartolome's ambush and the killing of two other Customs men in Cebu.

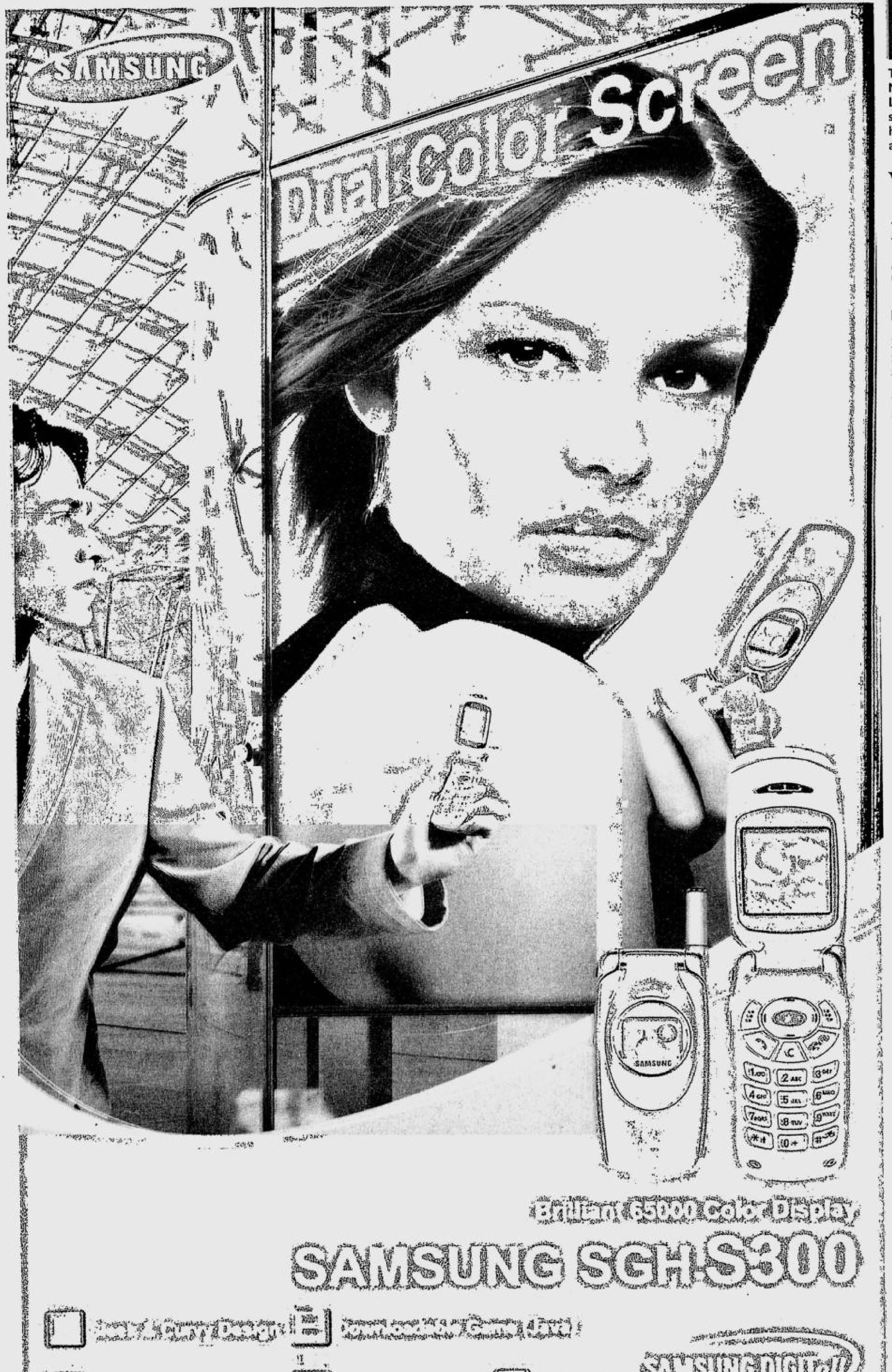
"It appears that there is no connection," Wycoco said. "There are two separate incidents, both involving Customs employees."

The ambush of Bartolome and that of Cebu Customs deputy collector for operations Eduardo Lao and Customs appraiser Bennet Soreno were just a day apart.

Bartolome, assigned with the Manila International Container Port, survived the attack of three unidentified men Friday night at the Anda Circle in Intramuros, Manila. His driver and Customs guard Erwin Melmida died in the ambush, while bodyguards P01 Raul Declaro and P03 Ricardo Castillo were wounded.

Lao and Soreno were killed in an ambush in Cebu on Thursday. A 16-year-old student was also killed in the attack.

WPD District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong earlier said the collector could have been ordered killed by parties he had angered for blocking illegal shipments or activities. Also, Bernardo reportedly said that big smuggling syndicates could be behind the attacks on the customs officials.



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Employer heckled, fires gun

By Margaux Ortiz

THOU shalt not heckle thy boss—especially if he has a gun.

This was the lesson learned by employees of BLM Courier Agency, who were allegedly shot at by their employer, Anthony Solcruz.

Police are now looking for Solcruz, owner of BLM that has offices on Fortune Street, Barangay Olympia, Makati City.

According to PO2 Juancho Ibis, about 20 employees of the agency met near Shell House on Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, to discuss their delayed salaries and the appropriate action they were going to take against the suspect.

Ibis said Solcruz, a former Central Luzon policeman, arrived at about 9 a.m. while his employees were into their meeting to propose a solution to the disgruntled employees.

But instead of agreeing with Solcruz and accepting his terms, the employees reportedly heckled their employer as they dismissed his words as "empty promises," Ibis added.

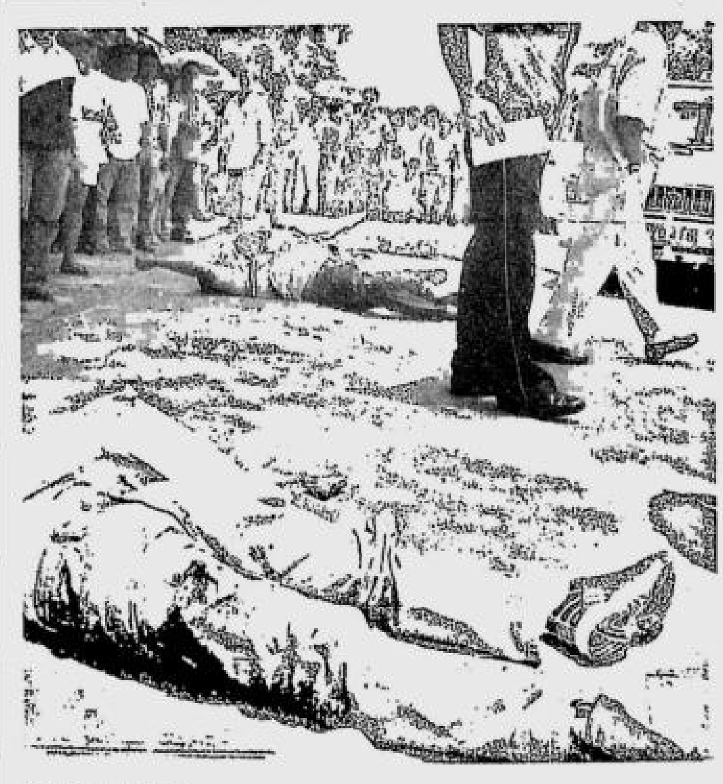
The employees' taunting soon angered Solcruz, who allegedly pulled out a homemade gun and fired three shots at them.

One of the employees, Rhobel Capisonda, 32, a messenger and a resident of Barangay BF International in Las Piñas, was grazed in the nape by one of the bullets, police said.

Investigators said Solcruz might have singled out Capisonda, described as the employees' leader, because he had been planning to bring their grievances to the Department of Labor and Employment.

Capisonda was taken to the Ospital ng Makati for treatment of minor burns, police added.

'Start saying your prayers'



SHOOTOUT
The bodies of three of four alleged drug pushers lie on the street after a 'gun battle' with lawmen in Cavite City. ERIK ARAZAS

BuCor: We're ready for execution

By Alcuin Papa

DRUG offenders on Death Row should start saying their prayers.

This was the ominous warning given yesterday by Bureau of Corrections director retired Gen. Dionisio Santiago after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared she would lift the moratorium on executions during her last State of the Nation address.

Santiago said the National Bilibid Prisons was ready to continue with executions of prisoners who have been meted the death penalty, especially drug offenders.

"They should start saying their prayers now," warned Santiago, who professed support for the death penalty for drug offenders.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Santiago said he already ordered an inspection of the lethal injection chamber, built in 1995, to prepare it for the resumption of executions.

"We are prepared for the executions if and when the President orders a continuation. The facility is now being prepared," Santiago said.

He explained that the chamber, recently used temporarily as a dormitory for suspected SARS patients, could be easily spruced up in no time.

NBP director Supt. Francisco Abunales said that there were a total of 979 convicts on death row, 14 of which are drug offenders.

Of the total number, the Supreme Court has affirmed the death penalty for 134 convicts, four of which are drug-related.

The last known drug offender who was meted out the death penalty was notorious drug lord Lim Seng who was executed by firing squad in 1973.

Seven men have been put to death by lethal injection since the death penalty was reimposed in 1994 in response to widespread crime.

The lethal injection chamber was last used in January of 2000 when rapist Alex Bartolome was put to death by lethal injection in the millennium's first known state execution.

Santiago also said he was an "advocate" for the continuation of executions of convicts scheduled to die for violating the country's drug laws.

"I am in full agreement with the lifting of the moratorium on the executions. This is a way to stamp out the drug menace and will serve as a deterrent. The executions must be expedited. *Magalit na ang magalit* (I don't care who is offended)."

However, Santiago could not say when the executions would start or who would go first. "Maybe it would be better if we could do this one by one."

He added that the number of drug offenders in jails all around the country, including the NBP, was "steadily growing."

Lawmen decry snail-paced Comelec

By Leila B. Salaverria

MANILA police officers have decried the alleged slow grind of a case filed by two of their colleagues against high ranking police officials at the Commission on Elections.

The Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association Inc. (MFBAI) said in a statement that the case had yet to be resolved a year after it was filed.

The case accuses former Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos, Supt. Francisco Sevilla and Sr. Supts. Oscar Marinas, Apolinar Albajera and Nicasio Radovan Jr. of violating the Omnibus Election Code.

It was filed originally by six police officers, four of whom had withdrawn. The remaining complainants are SP01 Noel Vizcarra and P01 Julius Garcia.

The case stemmed from the transfer of the six police officers to Taguig during the barangay elections in July last year.

Their transfer was ordered after intelligence reports tagged them as members of a drug syndicate.

The police officers protested their transfer, saying they were neither informed of the transfer nor given a chance to defend themselves.

They also claimed that the transfer order violated a Comelec ruling barring the transfer of personnel during the election period.

MFBAI Vice-President SP02 Virgo Villareal said the brotherhood fears that the case might be put in the backburner once the 2004 election season kicks in.

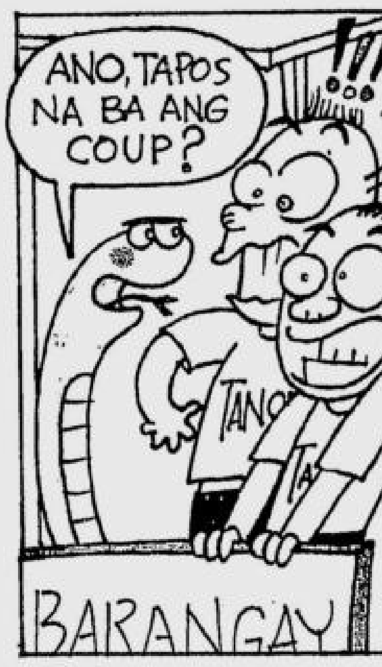
Brotherhood spokesperson SP02 Antonio Emmanuel said the MFBAI officers had gone to the Comelec several times to follow up the case and had been told the commission's law department had already penned a decision but it has to go through the Comelec en banc.

Villareal said Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos had pledged in a meeting with MFBAI officials two weeks ago that the decision would come out in a week.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," Villareal said.

In their joint counter affidavit, the accused said the transfer of the policemen should not be seen as a penalty if it is done to ensure efficient government service.

Python slithers up QC folks' nerves



By Tina Santos

RESIDENTS of Barangay Batasan Hills in Quezon City do not seem to lack reasons to get excited even after the "show" in Makati City and the State of the Nation Address of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Their latest adrenalin booster is the escape of an 8-foot python, which volunteer watchmen had captured on Monday night.

According to Larry Manalastas, executive officer of Barangay Batasan Hills, night-shift tanods got the shock of their lives when they came across the python curled on a tree near the barangay hall at around 9:30 p.m.

Although pythons are not venomous, people have the notion that these spring from trees or from hiding to pounce on unsuspecting victims.

The snakes have often been portrayed as giving their victims a death squeeze—crushing their bones and swallowing them whole.

And so, the sight of the snake was enough to send many residents, who got wind of the news, panicking.

Manalastas said the tanods ganged up on the snake, which they placed inside a sack. The sack was then brought to the second floor of the barangay hall for safekeeping.

According to Manalastas, the reptile was supposed to be turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources first thing in the morning yesterday.

However, when they went to fetch the snake, they were surprised to find the sack empty and in tatters after the python had slithered its way out.

The news of the escape again heightened the fears of residents, who have joined village officials in looking for the reptile.

METROBRIEFS

Cashier charged

NATIONAL Housing Authority general manager Edgardo Pamintuan has filed a complaint against the former cashier of one of the agency's project offices for alleged malversation of public funds through negligence. Charged before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office was Luz Sudiacal, a former cashier of the NHA project office in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City. In his affidavit, Pamintuan said Sudiacal was also charged with robbery before the Office of the Caloocan City Prosecutor in connection with an alleged robbery incident that took place on June 13, 2000. Because of the incident, the NHA lost more than P400,000 for which Sudiacal is being held liable. *Tina Santos*

Makati 'mess' probe

A MAKATI City councilor is asking the City Council to take seriously a resolution he will file calling for an investigation into a recent Commission on Audit report which said the city government lost P430 million due to anomalous deals. If the council would not investigate the matter, Makati City First District Councilor Oscar Ibay warned, he would go to the Senate, the Ombudsman and Malacañang to ask for an investigation. In an interview, Ibay said he was not optimistic the council would take his resolution seriously. *Alcuin Papa*

Slain like an animal

LIKE predators on the hunt, a group of allegedly drug-crazed adolescent boys ran after, lynched and stabbed to death a security guard in Quezon City early morning yesterday. Benito Diciehon, 30, of Skyhawk Security Force, failed to make it alive to the East Avenue Medical Center due to multiple stab wounds inflicted on him by the still unidentified suspects. The police said Diciehon and two companions were walking along Quezon Avenue near Hi-Top Supermarket at 1:45 a.m. when the incident occurred. *Tina Santos*

Wife slain over gin

A bottle of gin meant more to Alexander Lamson than the life of his wife, Emma de los Santos. Investigators said Lamson, 43, hugged and kissed De los Santos, when she arrived at their house at 19 Kalayaan Ave., Barangay Cembo, Makati City, at 9:15 p.m. He then asked for money so he could buy a bottle of gin. When the woman refused, Lamson got a kitchen knife and twice stabbed his wife in the neck. *Margaux Ortiz*

2 women take pity on girl, get life term

By Tarra Quismundo

PITY is not an excuse for taking a child from her parents.

Estelita Dazo and Ma. Trinidad Enriquez were sentenced to life in prison yesterday for kidnapping a 1-year-old girl in December 1996.

Dazo, in her testimony at the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 53, said that around 3:30 a.m. on December 22, 1996, while she was in Divisoria to buy fruits, she saw the child shivering on the pavement.

She claimed that a cigarette vendor, who later turned out to be the girl's father, said that he did not know why the baby was there.

Dazo took the child then later asked Enriquez to take care of her whom she introduced as her "grandchild."

Enriquez then brought the child to Iba, Zambales.

During the trial, the child's parents said they did not know Dazo and that she disappeared with the child on the night of Dec. 22, 1996.

The baby was returned to them seven days later, after Dazo volunteered information of where the child was.

The court ruled that kidnapping occurred since the two women took the baby without the consent of her parents, despite their testimony that they took the child "out of pity."

Mystery house no more

From page A22

and has a garage that can house vehicles as big as a Ford Expedition.

But there were no appliances found on the second door of the unit that police and military men raided on Sunday afternoon.

But there were ammunition and other military equipment stored in the house.

Several rounds for M-30 machine guns, hundreds of "links" for a 50-caliber gun, 10 camouflage uniforms, pistol belts, flippers and at least 35 black backpacks were found. The raiding team also found red arm bands, including a flag that bore the rebel soldiers' "Magdalo" symbol.

A Philippine Navy intelligence officer said 30 to 40 military rebels used the Mandaluyong house to prepare for the Makati siege.

"This was where they met and changed clothes and perhaps got their final briefing" the official said.

Woman's claim not true…

From page A22

According to Pereña, there was no problem with the boy.

She said Jomari was accepted to the school even if he was not able to present a birth certificate, and despite the fact that he was over-aged for a grade 1 student.

"Everything the school offers is free of charge," Pereña explained in a phone interview. "Students do not have to pay for the ID. We even give students free bags and school supplies."

Another school teacher who refused to be named said that the boy has not come back to school since she scolded Antonio over an unsettled sale of a cellular phone.

The teacher claimed that Antonio owes her and another teacher P800, which they paid as down payment for a Nokia 8210 unit that Antonio was selling.

"We gave (Antonio) the money because we wanted to help her," the teacher said. "She promised that she would give us the cellular phone, but she never returned. Maybe that's why her son does not attend classes anymore."

On Monday night, a woman went to the Western Police District Station 10 in Pandacan, and told investigators that Antonio had done the same thing to her.

The woman claimed that Antonio had failed to give her the cellular phone even after she gave Antonio P500 as down payment, PO3 Roberto Aduca said.

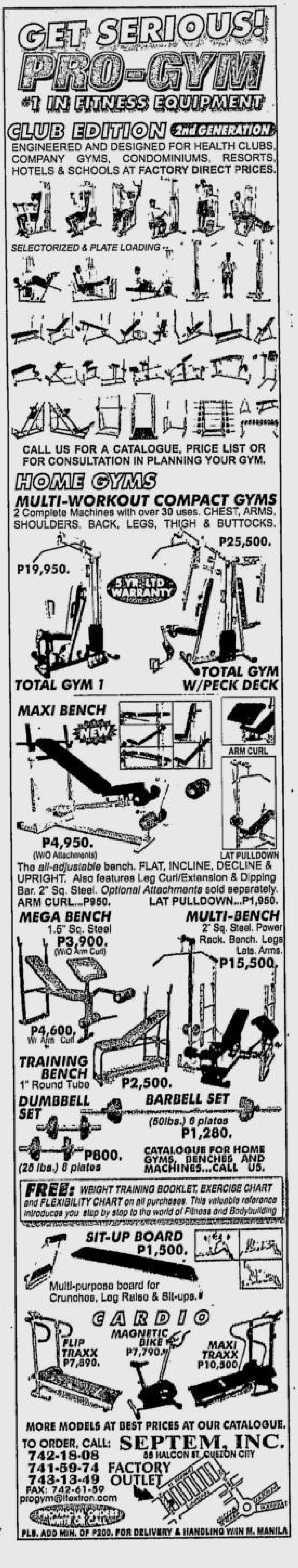
Aduca said that he often sees Antonio and her children hanging around the station.

Antonio was also a frequent visitor to Zamora school, according to the principal, adding that Antonio has sought financial help several times.

"(Antonio) tells everybody her life story," Pereña said. "She told us about their house which has no roof and which gets flooded when it rains. Some teachers have given her rice and money."

Pereña said that Rosemary knows how to use other people's pity.

"We trusted her too much," said Pereña.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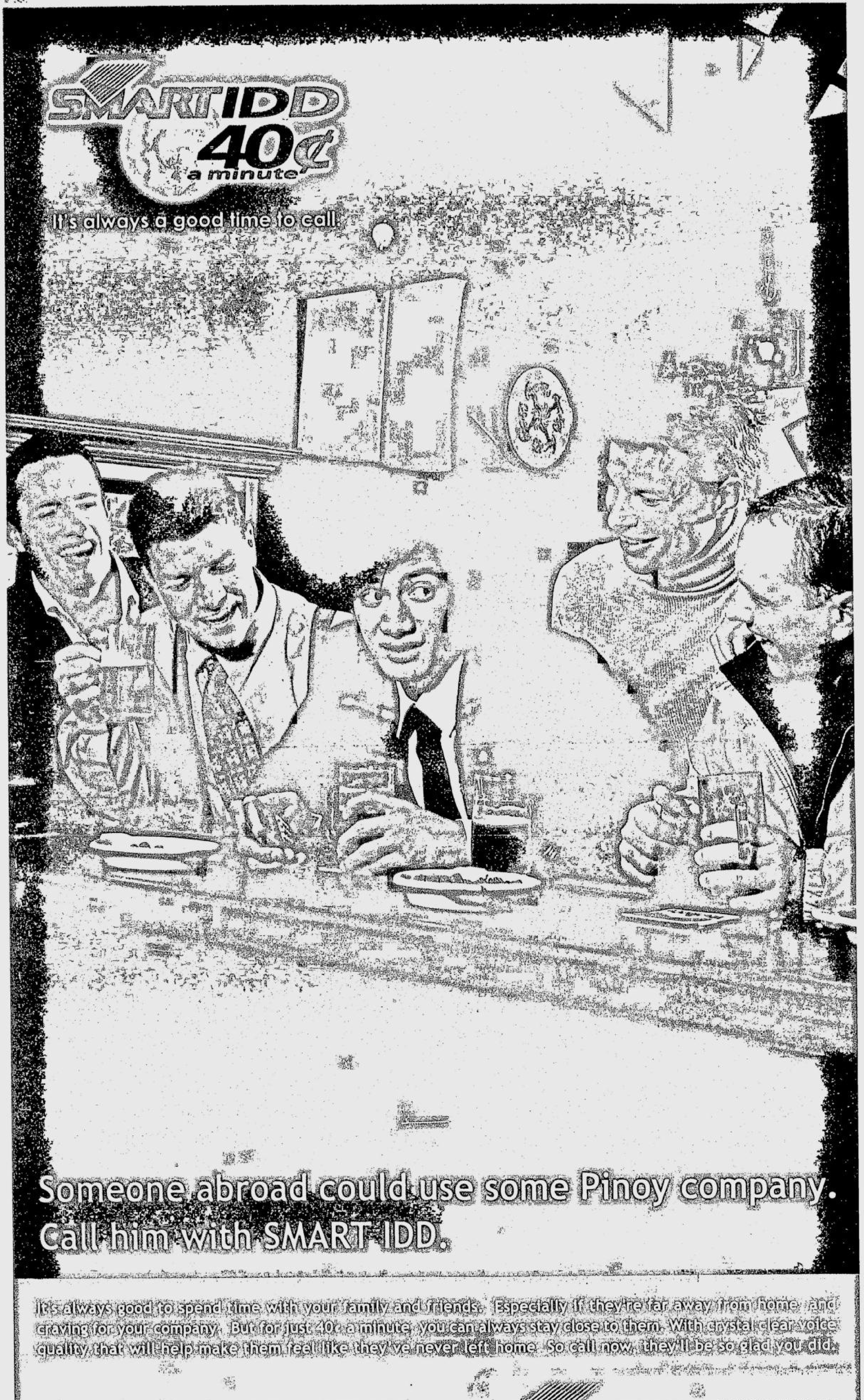
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BASKETBALL: Nets vs Celtics; Game 3, 2002 Eastern Finals; 8 a.m. (r-5 p.m.); Solar Sports—New Jersey takes on Boston in a crucial playoff match in the east more than a year ago.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

PSC wants Palaro in November

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission is all set to hold the Palarong Pambansa in November in Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

PSC chair Eric Buhain did not specify a date for the twice-postponed sporting meet for elementary and high school students but said all the requirements for the staging of the Palaro this year are ready, including the P40-million budget which has been allocated to the participating regions.

"We have already set November as a possible month to stage the Palaro in Tubod," said Buhain during yesterday's PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion.

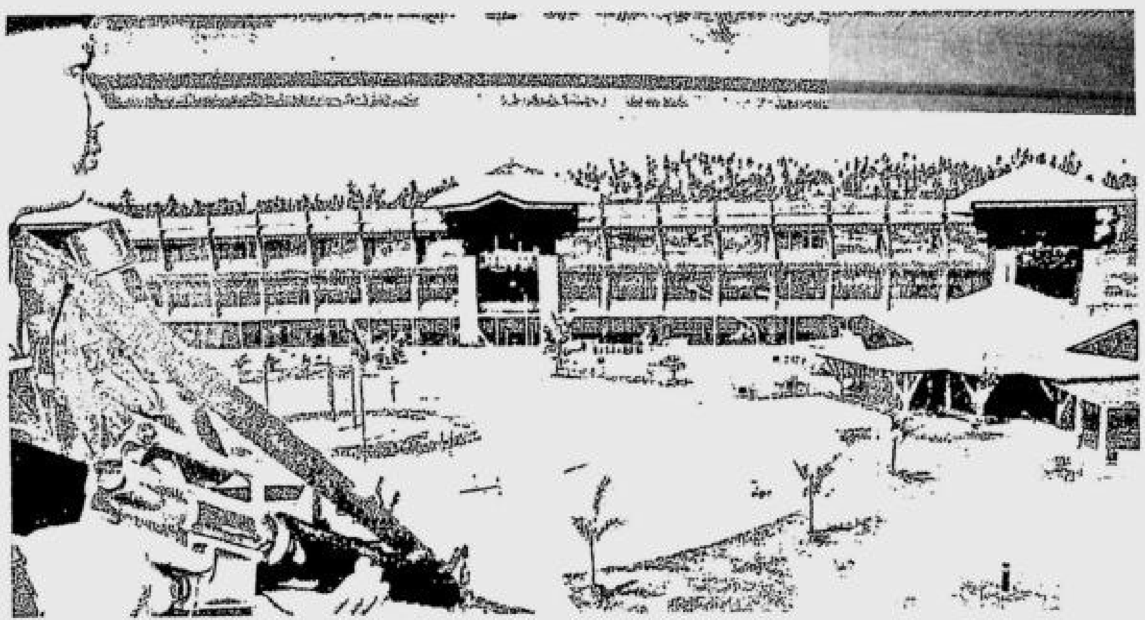
Local officials in Lanao del Norte said they haven't stopped preparing for the Palaro, set at the Mindanao Civic Center. They claimed there has been no incident of violence in the province in the past three months.

· The Palaro, originally scheduled last May 4-11, was shelved indefinitely because of skirmishes in some parts of the province between government troops and rebels of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Many regional delegations, which earlier begged off, have reportedly shown intentions to join the games, especially after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared that peace negotiations with MILF are on track.

Buhain also said the Mindanao Friendship Games will be held in October in Mati, Davao, while the Batang Pinoy will be in Manila in January.

The PSC head also announced that he will initiate a team-building seminar for the more than 400 athletes going to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games on Dec. 5-13.



PNP personnel secure the Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod, Lanao Del Norte, site of the Palaro. EDWIN BACASMAS

"It's important that the athletes are aware that finishing third in the Vietnam SEAG (the PSC target) is no longer an individual motivation but our collective goal," said Buhain.

He said the country would benefit in case any country completely dominates the competition. Otherwise, he said, the Philippines will figure in a difficult medal race with Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and host Vietnam.

"Finishing with 40 gold medals but ending up fifth (overall) is not acceptable for us," said Buhain. "But I have strong belief in the Filipino athlete."

The PSC chair is counting on track and field to deliver most of the gold medals in Vietnam. The Philippines won 11 golds in the sport in Kuala Lumpur.

Buhain is also pinning his hopes on the swimming team, which failed to win any gold in the past two SEA Games. He said he expects the swimmers to bag five golds this time.

The Filipinos, he said, are also expected to perform strongly in wushu, shooting, chess, billiards and basketball.

Meanwhile, Buhain also downplayed the effect of the cut in the money the agency receives each month from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

He stressed that the commission has been very "transparent" with the national sports associations over the issue.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Wary FedEx tests Yugoslavs' mettle 'A26

■ Letran, JRU gun for share of lead /A27

■ Bata, Django vying in World Pool Masters /A28

GMA honor inspires Pacquiao

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES, California—Manny Pacquiao dedicated his sensational victory here on Saturday to President Macapagal-Arroyo, but the lone reigning Filipino world boxing champ never expected to be repaid with a stellar mention by her Excellency in her State of the Nation Address.

Visibly inspired and flattered by the honor, Pacquiao yesterday vowed to work doubly hard in order to bring more honors to the country.

His handlers said Pacquiao was overjoyed, and reacted as though he had just won a championship again upon learning that the President, in an obvious dig at failed coup plotters, had commended him for his unwavering dedication to flag and country.

"*Sobra saya niya, siya nga nagbalita sa amin* (He was very happy as he himself informed us of the honor)," Lito Mondejar, a mainstay in Team Pacquiao, told the INQUIRER yesterday from the champ's room at the Vagabond Inn in Hollywood.

Near the end of her Sona, the President said: "The Filipino will work anywhere because he is not afraid. Like Manny Pacquiao, given the chance to compete he will take it and he will win it . . ."

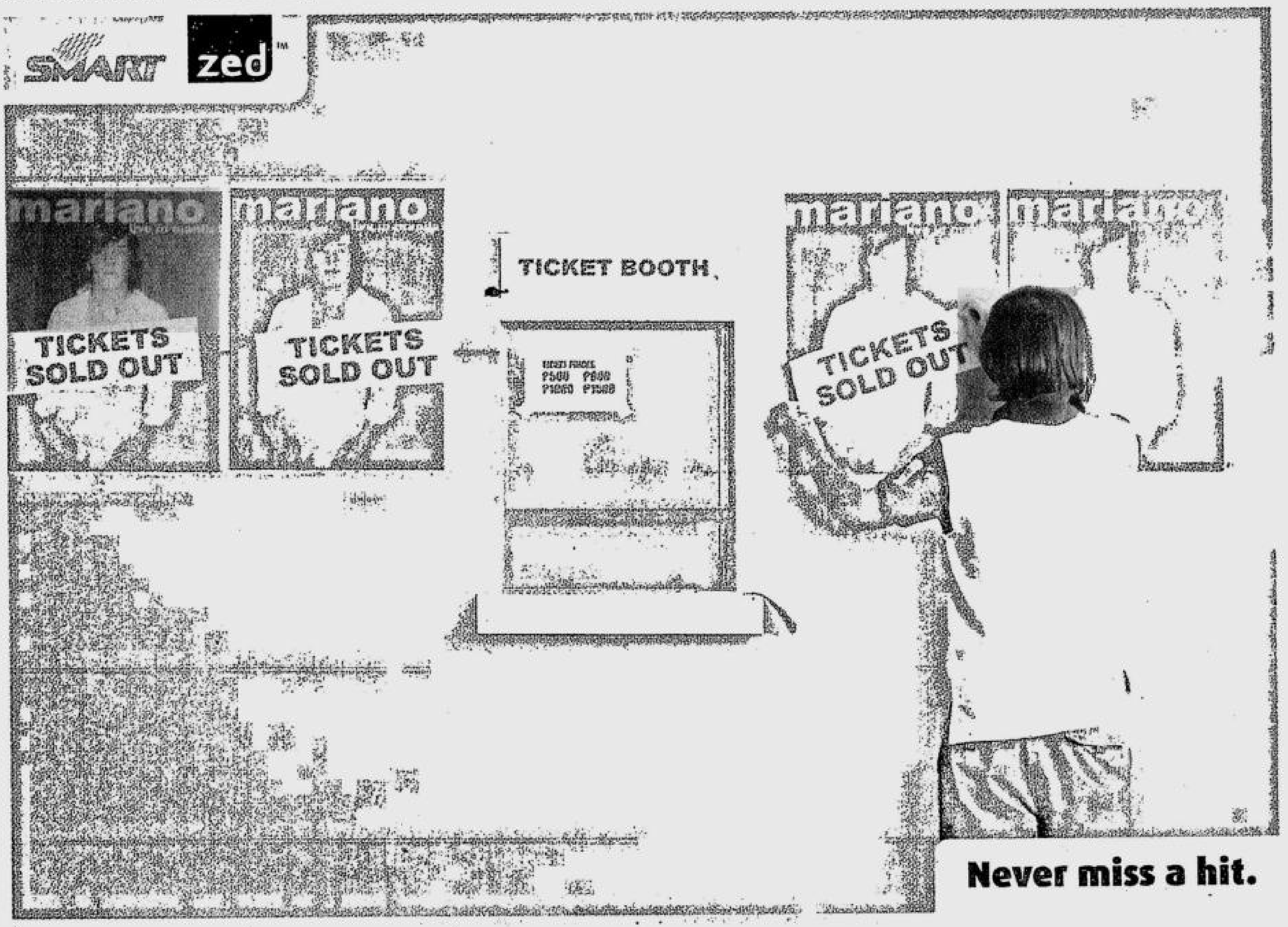
The reigning International Boxing Federation superbantamweight king, who on Saturday retained his crown with a devastating stoppage of tenth-ranked Emmanuel Lucero, was attending a conference with his US promoter, Murad Muhammad.

Rod Nazario, Pacquiao's business manager, later bared there had been several offers, but so far they have not reached an agreement with any group.

"We actually had an agreement to fight Jose Luis Valbuena in a mandatory defense, but the top challenger has been having managerial problems," Nazario said.

And although there's a growing clamor, even from fight experts here, for a Pacquiao clash with Marco Antonio Barrera, the celebrated world featherweight ruler, Nazario said there has been no significant development on the matter.

Nazario said things would most likely be worked out and formalized after they have returned to Manila.



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2	Can't Lose You	*F4*	**TONE CANTLOSE**
3	Broken Vow	*Lara Fabian*	**TONE BROKEN**
4	Foolish Heart	*Nina*	**TONE FOOLISH**
5	Faint	*Linkin Park*	**TONE FAINT**
6	In Da Club	*50 Cent*	**TONE INDACLUB**
7	I Know What You Want	*Busta Rhymes and Mariah*	**TONE IKNOWAT**
8	Hero	*Enrique Iglesias*	**TONE HERO**
9	My Immortal	*Evanescence*	**TONE IMMORTAL**
10	All I Have	*Jennifer Lopez*	**TONE ALLIHAVE**

Stole	*Kelly Rowland*	**TONE STOLE**
Nothing Else	*Justin Timberlake*	**TONE NOTELSE**
Someone's Always Saying Goodbye	*Allona*	**TONE ALWAYSGB**
Something Beautiful	*Robbie Williams*	**TONE SOMBEAU**
Maybe Tomorrow	*Stereophonics*	**TONE MAYBETOM**
Kisapmata	*Rivermaya*	**TONE KISAP**
A.D.I.D.A.S.	*Killer Mike*	**TONE ADIDAS**
Excuse Me Miss	*Jay-Z And Pharrel*	**TONE EXCUSEME**
Kailan	*Smokey Mountain*	**TONE KAILAN2**
P.I.M.P.	*50 Cent*	**TONE PIMP**

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PIC FROGMISS
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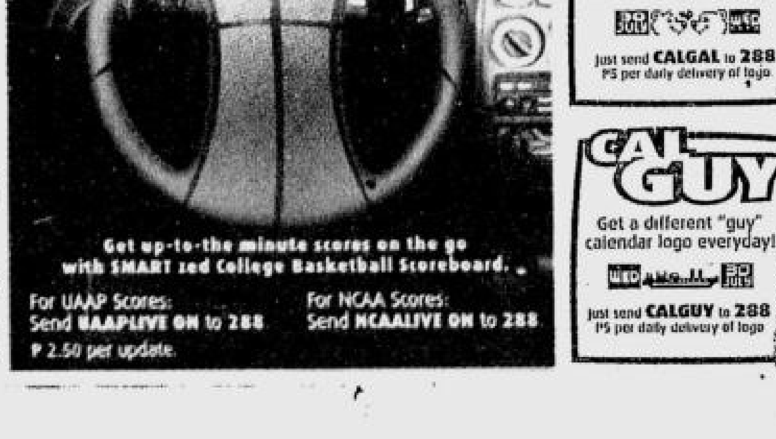

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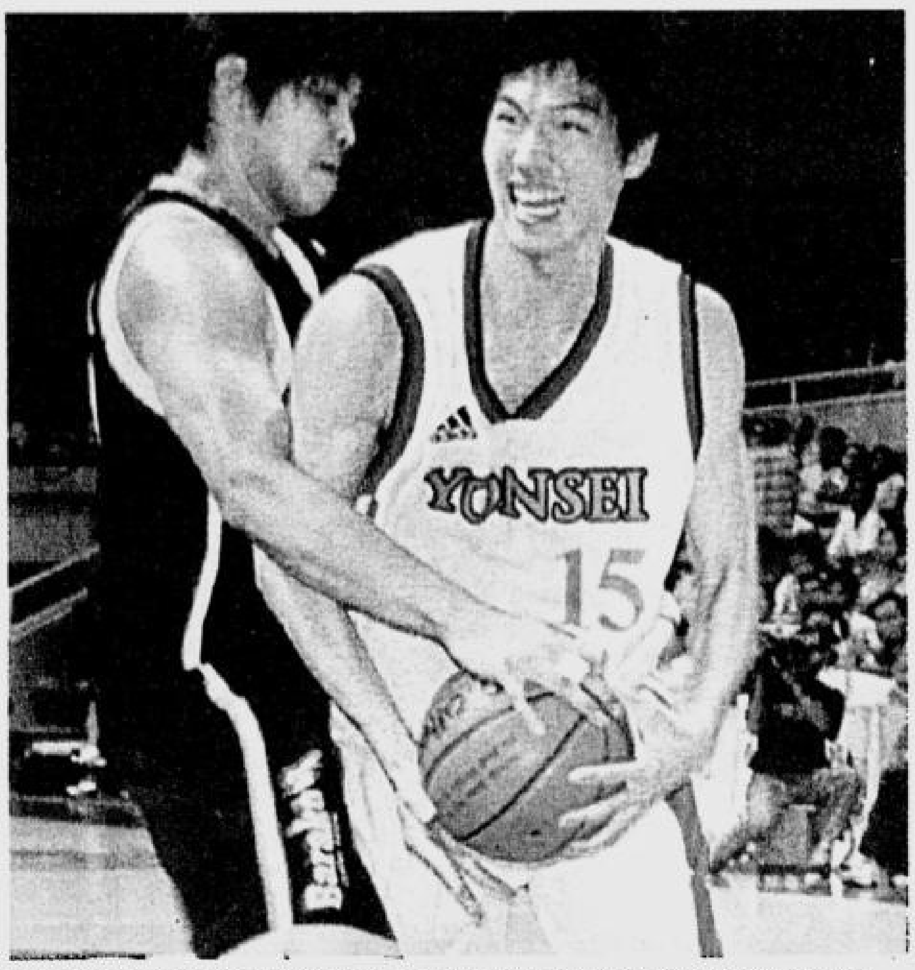
Wary FedEx tests Yugoslavs' mettle



RED Bull Barako's Enrico Villanueva and Yonsei University's Kim Jae-hwan battle for possession in Monday's game won by the Thunder.

RUDY ESPERAS

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
5 p.m.—FedEx vs Hapee-Novi Sad
7:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Magnolia Jilin

FEDEX Express will take to the floor with all due caution when it battles Hapee-Novi Sad of Yugoslavia today in the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship at the Cuneta Astrodome.

After seeing Yonsei University almost pull the rug from under Red Bull Barako—one of the league's most formidable teams—on opening day, it isn't hard to understand why the Express are wary of the foreign squads in the fold.

"We don't have any idea how they (Novi Sad) play. But if the Koreans are hard to beat, they could even be tougher," said FedEx coach Derrick Pumaren.

Touted as the strongest among the three foreign ballclubs in the Invitational, Hapee-Novi Sad, enjoys—at 6-foot-5 —an advantage in average height, something the fast-breaking Express should make up for with speed, experience and talent.

Novi Sad head coach Dorde Podgornik will rely on Predrag Popovic, Mihajlo Delic, Srdjan Todorovic, Nikola Jelicic, Mila Repac and Bogdan Vilic.

These men are expected to keep Jerry Codiñera, Yancy De Ocampo, Omanzie Rodriguez, Marvin Ortiguerra and rookie John Hubert Ferriols busy in the shaded area.

At any rate, Vergel Meneses, Renren Ritualo, Wynne Arboleda, Egay Billones, Gherome Ejercito and Roger Yap are expected to shoot mostly from afar—if only to negate Novi Sad's edge.

In Group B, the Alaska Aces take on Magnolia-Jilin of China, which will be bolstered by Ma Jian, the Asian basketball superstar who once played for the Los Angeles Clippers during the NBA's pre-season games in the mid '90s.

After the 6-foot-7 power forward failed to make the Clippers' final roster, Ma brought his act to a Hapee Toothpaste squad that won the Philippine Basketball League crown in 1996.

Despite a recurring leg injury, Ma said he would play limited minutes tonight.

Aside from Ma, Magnolia-Jilin will turn to Sun Jun, Zhang Kun, Wang Han, Du Jiang, Li Jifeng, Han Lei, Yin Yue and Nie Jingiang for offensive punch.

"How I wish the other teams would play them first. But since we're the ones picked to test them first, let's see what happens," said Alaska coach Tim Cone, obviously wary the Aces' chances against the Chinese.

With its quick ball movement and outside shooting prowess, Magnolia Jilin is expected to give the Aces' gunners a real battle.

June Navarro

BAP seeks release of 4 varsity players

By Dennis U. Eroa

BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim yesterday formally requested the UAAP board to allow four of its top players to reinforce the national team currently seeing action in the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship.

In a letter to Jose Capistrano Jr., UAAP president, Lim asked that Richard Alvarez and Wesley Gonzales of Ateneo and James Yap and Paul Artadi of the University of the East be allowed to join the national squad in the Invitational, which also serves as part of the country's preparations for the SEA Games in Vietnam.

"The presence of these players in the RP-Cebuana Lhuillier lineup (in the Invitational) will ... make them more competitive," Lim wrote.

GAB sets the record straight

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

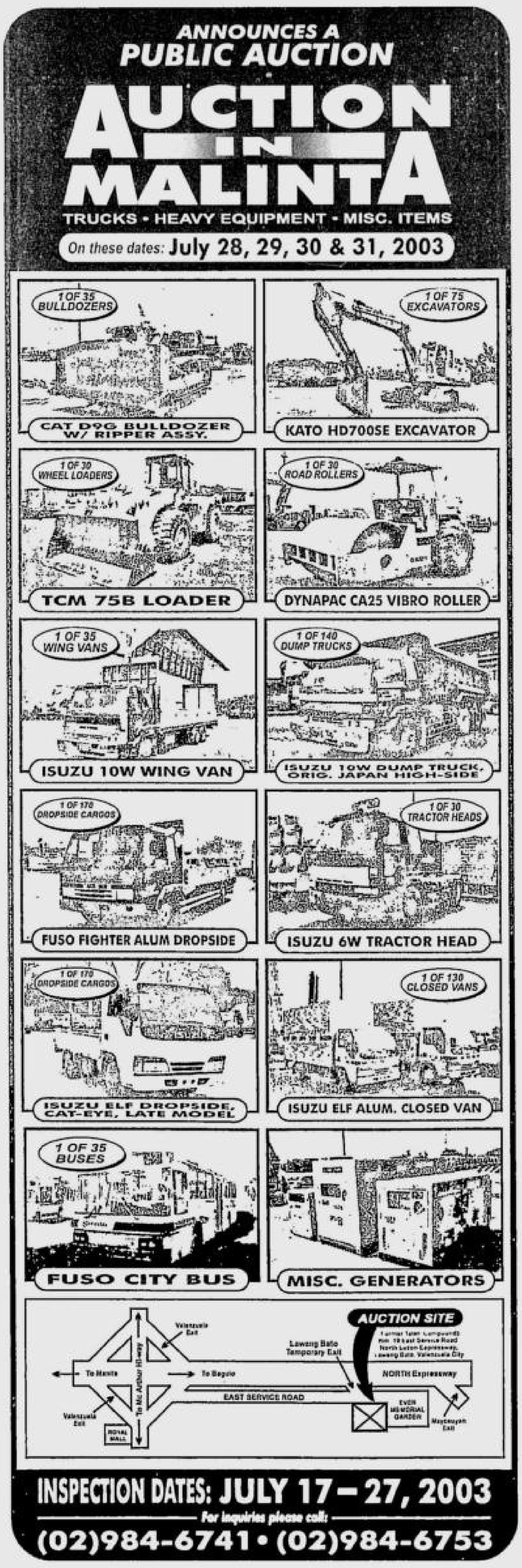
GAMES and Amusements Board chair Eduardo Villanueva faxed us a letter the other day complaining about the destructive and malicious articles which pictured him as having neglected his duties and responsibilities in protecting the welfare of professional boxers.

"These vague allegations of misconduct are bereft of truth and misleading," said the GAB chair, stressing that his office is always open to news people if they wish to verify facts and circumstances surrounding the world of professional sports that they would want to write about in order to avoid erroneous allegations.

To correct these, Villanueva cited several official GAB records, including the following:

- The purses due to boxers Benjie Sorolla and Alex Escaner had already been settled by their matchmaker, Jun Sarreal.
- Boxer Edward Escriber (with a ring record of 17-9-3 and not 17-11-12) has never been to Thailand since he entered professional boxing in 1995. No document on file would show that Escriber fought former WBA superbantamweight champion Yoddamrong Sityodthong and lost by KO. Escriber, a former bantamweight and superbantamweight champion, did not renew his license this year.
- Boxer Rodel Kid Orais (14-7) did not fight former WBA superflyweight champion Yokthai Sithoard. His last fight in Thailand was against WBA No. 4 contender Denkaosaen Kasoichi, who beat him by decision last March 23. In his last fight, Orais beat JBC (Japan Boxing Commission) No. 9 Horoaki Murakoshi by unanimous decision. Rodel Kid Orais is RP No. 11 and qualified to fight in a 10-round match here and abroad.
- Tirso Albia, also known as Turpe Alipians (26-15-1), was a former Philippine lightweight contender who was twice matched in a WBC International Lightweight Championship bout. He had a draw with former WBC No. 5 African Lawrence Ngoneni. The GAB received reports that Albia, together with unrated boxer Dondon Lapuz, fought in Thailand without the GAB's Letter of Authority last Jan. 29. These two boxers were not licensed by the GAB.
- In the case of boxer Jess Maca, who was reported as being unpaid and that the GAB has done nothing to help him, Villanueva said there is already an arrangement between the OPBF (Orient-Pacific Boxing Federation) and the Japan Boxing Commission (through the intercession of the GAB) that the unpaid balance in the purse shall be paid in two installments.
- As to boxer Rolly Lunas, it is the responsibility of his manager to negotiate for his purse and sign the contract for his fight. The GAB is not allowed to negotiate in behalf of any professional boxer unless requested in writing and given a special power of attorney.

Villanueva is appealing to the media to be fair when writing about the GAB, hoping that his letter be published so as to give the GAB the opportunity to clear its side. We must not project the wrong concept and image to the reading public, Villanueva said, adding that any erroneous reporting does not help improve the sport. "While the GAB and its chairperson accept constructive criticisms, it cannot, however, let destructive and malicious criticisms ruin its integrity," Villanueva stressed.



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3. There will be six (6) Monthly draws to be held every last Friday of the month starting May 30, 2003 to October 31, 2003. The drawing of which is through tambiolo to be held at Ad Options at 2:00 PM to be supervised by a duly-authorized DTI representative, with representatives from Darlington and Ad Options as well.

4. The monthly winners will be published on Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Bulletin and People's Journal. Winners will be notified through registered mail.

5. There will be twenty (20) winners of P1,000 in each Monthly draw.

6. A customer can only win once per draw.

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8. Only entries received until every last Thursday of the month from May 29-Oct. 30, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. qualify for the draw. Entries received beyond this deadline will be included in the succeeding draws.

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11. Employees of Darlington, its ad agency, promo persons, merchandisers and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

12. Promo period is from March 15, 2003 to October 30, 2003.

*Approved by DTI-NCR

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0251 Series of 2003

Dutch volleybelles rip Italians

GIOIA DEL COLLE, Italy—Italy's tournament woes continued Monday with a five-set loss to the Netherlands in the opening round of the World Grand Prix women's volleyball finals.

Italy jumped out to a two-set lead, 25-23, 25-23 and was on the verge of clinching the match when the Netherlands rallied to win the third set, 36-34. The Dutch went on take the last two sets, 26-24, 19-17.

The Italians had shown signs of recovery Saturday when they upset unbeaten United States, 23-25, 20-25, 25-23, 25-15, 15-9, in last match of the preliminaries.

Italy, which won the World Championship in 2002, finished the preliminary rounds with a 2-3 record but escaped elimination since the host is guaranteed a spot in the finals.

The tournament, which was scheduled to be held in Asia, was moved to Italy earlier this year because of fears about SARS.

In other games, titleholder Russia beat South Korea in straight sets 25-15, 25-23, 25-16.

China beat the US in straight sets 25-21, 26-24, 28-26 behind strong play from Hao Yang, who finished with 15 points.

Italy, Russia, China, South Korea, the Netherlands and the US made the tournament's round robin final, which concludes Sunday. *AP*

Letran, JRU gun for share of lead

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Coliseum)*
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs PCU (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—UPHR vs JRU (srs/jrs)

FOUR title-hungry squads hoping to end their first round campaign on an auspicious note play in a double-header today in the 79th NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Letran and Jose Rizal aim for a share of the lead with San Beda when they take on separate rivals.

The Knights collide with the Philippine Christian U.Dolphins at 2 p.m. before the Heavy Bombers clash with the Perpetual Help Altas.

Sporting identical 4-2 records, the Knights and the Bombers hope to wrap up their respective first-round assignments with a win and join the Red Lions (5-2) at the top of the standings.

SENIORS

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	5	2
JRU	4	2
Letran	4	2
Mapua	4	3
SSC-R	4	3
PCU	3	3
Perpetual	2	4
St. Benilde	0	7

JUNIORS

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	7	0
SSC-R	5	2
Mapua	4	3
LSGH	4	3
Letran	4	2
PCU	2	4
UPHR	0	6
JRU	0	6

San Beda grabbed the lead last week with an 85-82 squeaker over the Mapua Cardinals.

The Knights are again expected to bank on the scoring triumvirate of Ronjay Enrile, Jonathan Aldave and Eric Rodriguez who starred in Letran's 68-66 win over the Altas.

"PCU is fast recovering from a string of losses at the start of the tournament. In order to beat them, we must employ the same defensive strategy against Perpetual," said Letran coach Louie Alas.

The Dolphins (3-3) are coming off back-to-back wins. They routed the Altas, 79-58, and then snapped the Bombers' four-game win streak with a 69-63 decision last week.

The President's state of the nation address last Monday forced the NCAA management committee, led by chair Frank Gusi of San Sebastian College, to postpone the day's scheduled games.

The Squires and the Baby Dolphins start off the four-game bill at 11:30 a.m.

June Navarro

Garcia-Mickelson whips Woods-Els

SAN DIEGO, California—Sergio Garcia sank a 20-foot eagle putt on the 16th hole Monday to lift his partnership with Phil Mickelson to a 3 and 1 match play victory over Tiger Woods and Ernie Els in the Battle of the Bridges.

After Els hit his second shot into the water on the par-5, 571-yard 16th, Mickelson and Garcia hit their second shots onto the green.

Woods put his second shot into a greenside bunker but got his sand shot onto the green. Mickelson missed his eagle attempt, setting up Garcia's pivotal putt.

The teams had halved the previous seven holes but Garcia's eagle put his team two holes ahead with two to play.

Garcia and Mickelson finished their 17 holes 10-under par while Woods and Els finished 7-under par.

Garcia and Mickelson each earned $600,000. Woods and Els earned $250,000.

AFP

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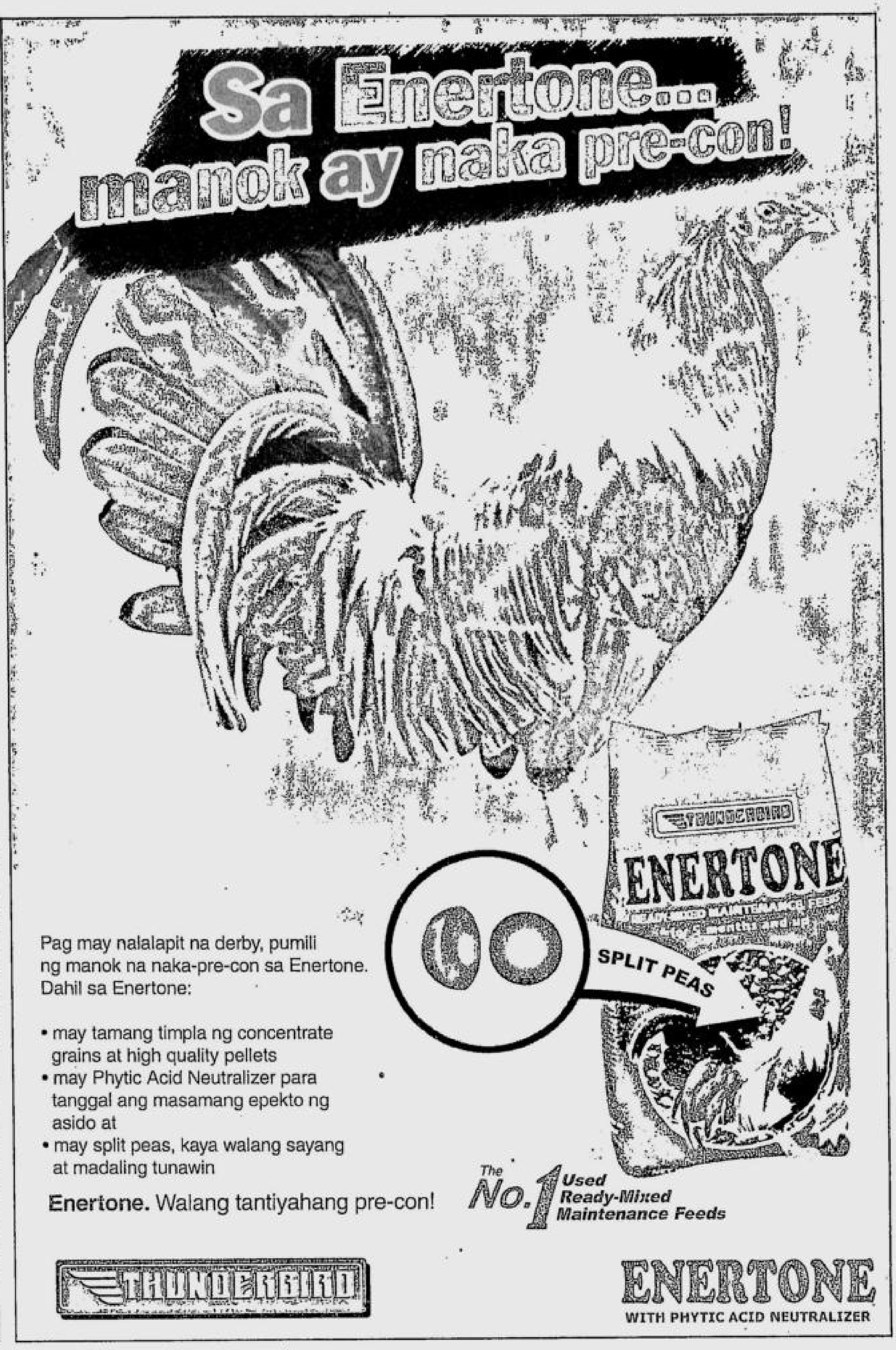

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SPORTSWATCH

Davao City hosts active meet

THE MINDANAO leg of the 2003 Shell National youth Active Chess Championship will be held in Davao City on Aug. 8 and 9 at the Atrium (ground floor) of the Galsano Mall. Over a thousand chess players, all students from bona fide schools in Mindanao, are expected to participate. There will be two categories of play: the Juniors or 20-under age group, and the Kiddies or 14-under age levels. The Davao leg will kick off the Shell-sponsored annual tournament, now on its 11th year. The succeeding legs will be held in Cebu (Western/Central Visayas) on Aug. 16 and 17; Bacolod City (Eastern Visayas) on Aug. 23 and 24 and in Batangas (Southern Luzon) on Aug. 30 and 31; NCR (Southern Luzon) on Sept. 5 and 6. The grand finals will be held in Manila from Sept. 26 to 28.

Guya tops elite section of Peace chess

TYRONE Guya of Nippon Life drew with defending champion Jenny Mayor in the last round to top the elite section in the fifth leg of the 2003 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or PEACE 2003 held over the weekend at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila. Guya finished with four points in the one-day, five-round event organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia with the support of Belgosa Media Systems and Land Bank. Mayor wound up tied with Chris Rodriguez for second-third places with identical 3.5 points. The Classic section produced a multiple tie for first among Christopher Castellano, Ramil Acosta, Jun Rojano and Raul Villate with four points each. Castellano, however, was adjudged winner by tiebreak. The sixth leg will be held on Aug. 30. Contact the Acca at 892-8759 for details.

Manila wants Batang Pinoy games

ATIENZA

THE CITY of Manila is bent on seeking the consent of the Philippine Sports Commission for it to stage the next edition of the Batang Pinoy and show its capability to host the 2005 Southeast Asian Games. "Hosting the Batang Pinoy should serve as a dry run for the 2005 SEA Games," said Manila Sports Council (Masco) chair Ali Atienza in yesterday's PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion. "That should be an overview of what we can do in 2005." Manila is bidding to host the 23rd edition of the SEAG, last held in Manila 12 years ago, and is also leading other provinces as probable host of the Batang Pinoy in January next year. Ali, son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, said Manila is the ideal place to host both events as it already has the existing facilities where most of the games can be held. Through Masco, the Big City has been involved in several major tournaments held this year including the 2nd Manila Youth Games and the Manila Marathon.

4x4 series to go international in 5 years

DELO Sports 4x4 National Extreme series organizers are upbeat that five years from now, the event will be rich in foreign flavor. For the moment though, they are more than happy for local riders to play vital roles in the growth of 4x4 racing in the country. "Perhaps within five years we could start inviting foreign drivers and put the Philippines on the world map," said National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders (Nasfor) senior adviser Ramon To-Ong in the PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion yesterday, where he guested along with Nasfor secretary general Dexter Tang and organizer Sonee Pili. The first leg of the four-part series begins this Friday in Cagayan de Oro City and ends Sunday. The succeeding races will be held in Davao and Bacolod.

Balce gains boys' junior tennis semis

NAGA—Ateneo de Manila's Mark Balce routed Ian Flor, 6-0, 6-1, then staved off seven match points to post a hard-earned 7-6, 3-6, 7-6 win over Kim Saraza to gain a semifinal seat in the boys' 14-under division Sunday in the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup & Regional Workshop here at the Nordia Tennis Club. Balce, whose family hails from Daet, Camarines Norte, overshadowed the triumphs of Czech Republic-bound Ralp Barte, a 6-2, 6-0 victor past Patrick Florendo; and San Beda netters Bobby Chio and Marvin Serito who ousted Jason Imperial 6-4, 6-3 and Jerome Bernales 6-3, 6-4, respectively. Over at the Baao Tennis Club, Chynna Mamawal of Flos Carmelio-QC downed Christine Portacio 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 to advance in the girls' 14-under bracket with Julie Em Botor, Zhane Quitara and Catherine Palencia in the Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, adidas and Sports Kids with Philta sanction.

RP to host Asean tablenet

THE COUNTRY will host the 9th South East Asian Junior Table Tennis Championship on July 30 to Aug. 2 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Vito Cruz, Manila. This four-day competition was organized by the Tatap (Table Tennis Association of the Philippines) headed by Victor U. Valbuena through the authority granted by the South East Asian Table Tennis Championship (Seatta), the umbrella organization that promotes this kind of activity in the South East Asian region. The six countries competing in this year 9th South East Asian Junior Table Tennis Championship are the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Thailand. The sponsors and supporters of this event are Philippine Sport Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Pagcor, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the Philippine Star, Accel, Tibhar, Luxasia, Rustan's, Cafe Lupe, Carl's Jr., Starbucks and Agua Vida.

RP Under-20 booters edge Ateneo

THE PHILIPPINES' Under-20 squad (RP U-20) sneaked by Ateneo De Manila University, 1-0, on a goal by striker Gigs Asparen on the 49th minute in the Ang Liga Football Cup Sunday at the Philsports pitch. Six 'in-your-face' strikes by Ateneo attackers Jason Costanilla and Aries Bocalan produced nothing as RP U-20 goal keeper Michael Casas of San Beda ably held fort. Ateneo coach Ompong Merida said," The RP U-20 were saved by our terrible finishing— first, and their good goal keeping—second." For his part, RP U-20 coach Bob Salvacion said, "We had one good break and that was enough to win."

Pinoy football refs tapped by Fifa

THE FEDERATION Internationale de Football Association (Fifa) and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) recently called on Filipino referees to officiate in international competitions. Nicolau 'Ben Cafe' Jaime and his assistant Arnel Sagansay were tapped to officiate in the preliminary round of the Asian Cup in China, while referee Jerry Andres and his assistants Celso Soddevilla, Romulo Sabillo and Allan Martinez handled a preliminary round match in the Men's Olympic Football Tournament for the 2004 Athens Games.

Pasay 4-cocker features 100 fights

PASAY City Cockpit will be staging more than 100 fights in today's "Sagupaan sa Tag-ulan 4-Cock Derby." The event is a follow-up to the recent Anniversary Derby, which attracted 154 entries, according to pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric de la Rosa and Butchoy Olano. Today's hosts are Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola, who recently hosted the 2-cock *ulutan* (250 entries) at La Loma Cockpit. Seeing action are provincial derby champions like Jojo Villafuerte, Oca Bermas, Nono San Pablo, Ben Barra, Vic Azana and Art Tolentino of Bicol, Jojo Caparros and Rey Magbuhos of Quezon Province, Joey Rebadabia of Bulacan, Rocky Garcia of Pampanga, Ariel Adam and Jun Villar of Batangas, Arthur and Eric Leonardo of Bulacan, Nick Cuadra and Jimmy James of Negros, Johnny Elorde, Aglo Martinez and engineer Mike Santos of Parañaque, Chuck Carino and Ted Batac of Quezon City, Oca Tullao, Chito Javier and Rey Cabial of Makati. For inquiries, contact 816-6750, 843-1746 and 843-1890.

Bata, Django competing in World Pool Masters

FILIPINO aces Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante resume their quest for glory when they compete in the World Pool Masters on Aug. 29-31.

Reyes, Bustamante and Canada-based Filipino Alex Pagulayan were among "the 16 of the very best 9-ball players in the world" invited to the $62,000-event, according to the announcement of the organizing Matchroom Sport.

The 39-year-old Bustamante won the 1998 and 2001 World Pool editions, while Hall of Famer Reyes, 48, wants to include it in his long list of triumphs.

Leading the invitees were Germans Ralf Souquet, the defending champion, and Thorsten Hohmann, the reigning World Pool Championship titlist.

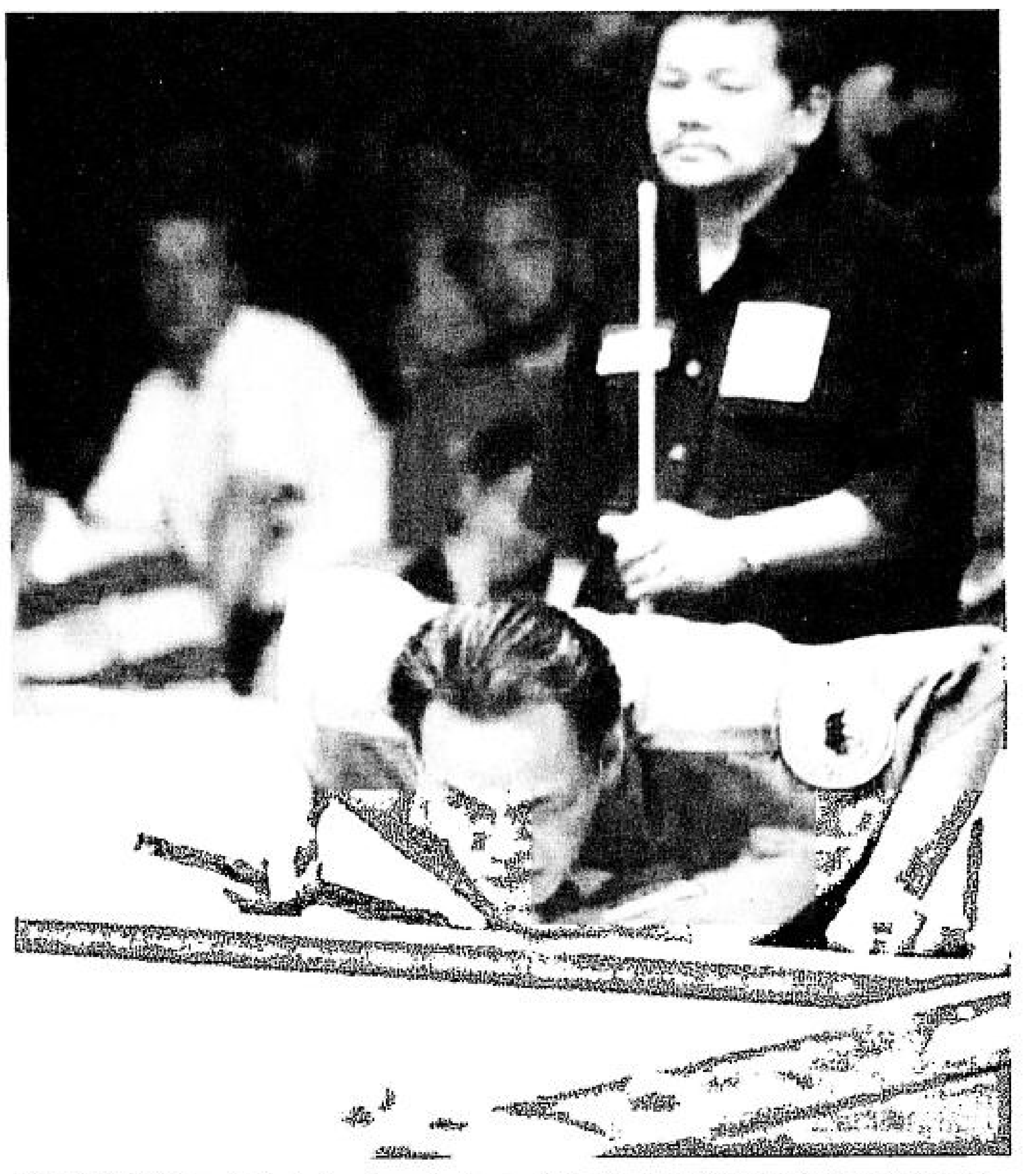
Completing the roster are Earl Strickland (US), Steve Dvis (England), Mika Immonen (Finland), Niel's Feijen (Netherlands, Alex Lely (Netherlands, Nick Van den Berg (Netherlands), Rick Diks (Netherlands), Tom Storm (Sweden), Nicholas Bergendorff (Sweden), Tony Drago (Malta) and Ching-Shun Yang (Chinese-Taipei).

Reyes and Bustamante, both being supported by Puyat Sports, will fly from Los Angeles, California, after playing in the International Challenge of Champions in Connecticut on Aug. 13-14.

This will be the first time the annual Masters will be held outside the United Kingdom.

All participants are guaranteed to receive at least $1,500, with the champion getting $20,000 in the 9-ball tournament to be televised by ESPN Star Sports throughout Asia.

Roy Luarca


BUSTAMANTE spots the ball as Reyes looks on during the recent World Pool Championship.

Buhain sticks to 40-60 golds forecast

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission (PSC) chair Eric Buhain is sticking to his prediction that the country will win from 40-60 gold medals in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December.

"I'm a very, very optimistic person and I believe we can reach that 60 gold medals," said Buhain at the PSA Forum yesterday. "Conservatively and personally, I believe we can win 40 golds but I'm hoping for more."

In the wake of the country's fifth place finish in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Games, where the Filipinos bagged 31 golds, apprehensions are high on how the Philippines will fare amid tough competition in Vietnam, where perennial powerhouse Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the host nation are expected to crowd out for the 492 gold medals at stake in 32 events.

Buhain himself was the first to admit that a tough battle awaits the Filipino athletes, who are now in the final four months of their preparations for the Dec. 5-13 meet.

But he's also not losing hope on the country's campaign, well aware that everything is possible should there be full cooperation from the PSC, the Philippine Olympic Committee and the National Sports Associations.

"My dream is for us to become the overall champion, but of course that's only a dream," he added in the same forum held at the Manila Pavilion and sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and Pagcor. "But in reality, I know we can attain the 40 and 60 golds. Let's just be united in supporting our athletes."

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO PARK

By Mr. 999

Race 1--1. Two Thumbs Up 2. Fire 3. Arianas Pride 4. Crisel Joy

Race 2--1. Masagana 2. Front Page 3. Premiere Stock

Race 3--1. Naglalabyog 2. Cool Clay 3. Hezagonebabes 4. Calvin's Magic

Race 4--1. Thunder Dragon 2. Manila Mauler 3. Sarangani Dancer

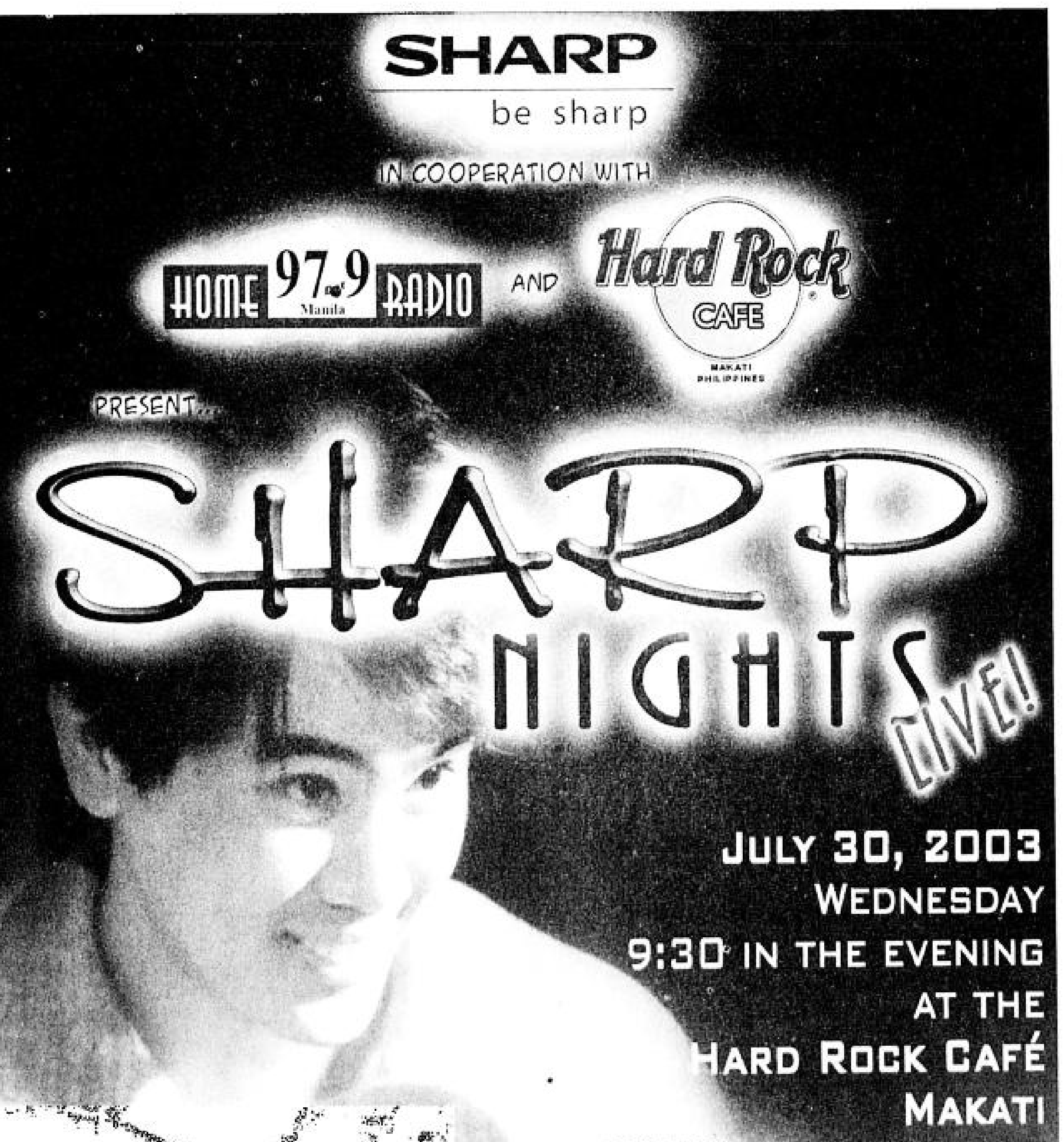
Race 5--1. Kagilagilalas 2. Time to Party 3. Star Material 4. Caballero 5. Master Professor

Race 6--1. Queen Ramasas 2. Ganda 3. High Pitch/High Typhoon

Race 7--1. Mays Magic 2. Golden Tale 3. Victory Lap 4. Ebony Starr 5. Gold Marlin

Race 8--1. Firenze Rose 2. Classic Native 3. Cavite Starlet

Race 9--1. Well Noted 2. Run Like D Wind 3. Real Gem 4. Nureyev Heiress 5. Amuridik 6. Divide and Rule



Metro Manila race elims reset

THE METRO Manila elimination race of the 27th National MILO Marathon has been moved to Aug. 21.

Originally set Sunday, it was postponed due to the aborted Makati siege by junior military officers and soldiers.

"The primary concern of Nestle Phils., as well as their partners, Cebu Pacific, Bayview Park Hotel, Adidas, Powerbar, MyGlobe, and the DOT is the safety of the over 12,300 runners who registered for the race last Sunday and there was no choice under the circumstances but to reset the event," said Rudy Biscocho, Milo Marathon national race organizer. "Those who fail to register before may call 7279987 to be included in the additional slots that we will soon open."

'Down With Love' up with warmth and laughter

REVIEW

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

HONESTLY, I had no intention of watching "Down With Love."

I don't know why, but something about its advertising pitch just didn't appeal to me. I don't particularly fancy those Rock Hudson-Doris Day romantic comedies in the early '60s, after which "Down With Love" is supposedly styled. There were three of them, "Pillow Talk" (1959), "Lover Come Back" (1961) and "Send Me No Flowers," and I can't even recall which of them I happened to tune in on one lonely night way back when there was still TNT on local cable. Whichever it was, it was fine as a diversion and not much more.

But trapped inside a mall, on the day supertyphoon "Harurot" was pounding the city, "Down With Love" seemed just the kind of sunny entertainment I was looking for to offset the gloomy weather outside, so in I went.

The film doesn't disappoint. It's the cinematic equivalent of an all-you-can-eat buffet: No matter what your tastes are, you're likely to find something in the film you can enjoy. It doesn't matter much that you hardly know what the so-called swinging '60s was all about.

If you do, though, then you'd really find this film, well, groovy. Everything about it is wonderfully '60s retro: the colorful sets, the Technicolor production, the Cinemascope camera work, the use of split screens in telephone conversations, those outrageously stylish clothes, the larger-than-life movements of the actors and lots more.

A bit of Boyd

If you're a music buff, "Down With Love" is full of gems as well. My favorite is the pairing of Astrud Gilberto's version of "Fly Me to the Moon" with that of Frank Sinatra's. But the song and dance number of the film's leads in the end is also a dandy. Renee Zellweger and Ewan McGregor, who both previously starred in their own musicals (she in "Chicago," he in "Moulin Rouge"), look and sound great in a big band-accompanied duet.

Seeing Zellweger again after "Bridget Jones' Diary" is a personal treat (I intentionally missed her in "Chicago"). To me, there will always be a bit of Dorothy Boyd (her character in "Jerry Maguire") in Zellweger wherever she goes. And I love Dorothy Boyd, that young, single mom who chose to stand with Jerry be cause of his ethics despite an uncertain future that lay ahead of her and her son; who loved her man with all her heart and soul even if he didn't quite live up to her expectations.

Zellweger here plays Barbara Novak, a farmer's daughter and small-town librarian turned author of "Down With Love," a self-help book for women looking for a little empowerment in the highly misogynistic world of the early '60s (the setting is New York, circa 1962).

Chasing Barbara

In what seems like the first shots fired for the women's liberation movement, Novak tells women to do pretty much what a man does to get ahead. Forget about love, "it's a distraction," she says. Casual sex will do. Find jobs and insist on equal opportunity at home and in the workplace. Learn to pleasure yourself through chocolate (hey, don't ask me).

Anyway, the all-male board of her publishing house in Manhattan finds her book quite heretical and refuses to promote it. But her shrewd, chain-smoking editor Vikki (Sarah Paulson) has other alternatives, one of which entails having the playboy ace writer of a famous men's magazine ("Know," for men in the know) do an interview with Barbara for a cover article. She manages to convince Know's editor in chief Peter (played by David Hyde Pierce of TV's "Frasier"), who has a crush on her, but the writer, Catcher Block (McGregor), keeps ditching them to pursue his dalliances.

So Vikki turns to Plan B. She has Judy Garland sing the song "Down With Love" on the Ed Sullivan show (actual footage), and the book skyrockets to the top of the bestseller list soon after.

Now, Catcher's the one doing the chasing and Barbara's doing the ditching. He's infuriated, of course, not only because he can't get his usual scoop for the magazine, but also because the book has spawned a community of women who absolutely loathe men like Catcher Block. No longer is he the "ladies' man, man's man, man about town."

Catcher vows revenge. We certainly know the formula: Two people at odds with one another, who, through countless shenanigans, eventually end up falling in love, right?

Well, I won't bother to elaborate, but save yourself for some surprises.

Charming imperfect

McGregor and Zellweger exact the warmth and chemistry of a bygone era. The former may be too skinny (he looks like the young German Moreno) to play a Hudson-like character, and the latter may not be as pretty and as effortless as Day was, but both more than make up for these slight imperfections with their own charms.

Zellweger constantly offers an enchanting mix of vulnerability and resolve. And McGregor, while keeping his character on the safe side of the early '60s macho caricature, allows us to see a man burdened by the cultural baggage in the end. Whether in love or in war, their dynamic relationship is fused with a special verve that makes watching them perform truly a pleasure.

Emotion and humor

The filmmakers of "Down With Love" deserve credit. Director Peyton Reed ("Bring It On") and writers Eve Ahlert and Dennis Drake have given us a glimpse of what comedy was like or how it should be. It is indeed refreshing to experience a film that can be funny without fart jokes and other gratuitous gross-outs that are common staple in the genre today.

More than that though, the real feat is being able to mix the right emotional texture with the humor. Despite all the fluff, there's something truly soulful about the way Barbara and Catcher end up in each other's arms. It says that even where trust and honesty are absent, and pride leads to all manner of cutthroat sins, love can still redeem and prevail.

There you go, warmth and laughter on a cold, sad, stormy afternoon. There's nothing more one can ask for.

'60s AND WONDERFUL. Outrageous styles and larger-than-life movements bring back the much-missed decade.

TV reporter stages own coup

From page A32

hear him. He was, he said on the air, trying to stay unnoticed by the soldiers, who were driving away the media people.

Later in the day, Elchico would be the only reporter in Oakwood. And he and dzMM were reporting developments many minutes ahead of all the others.

For 17 hours, "*upo, yosi,* text, *sagot ng telepono,*" says Elchico of his movements in Oakwood. "*Naubos ko siguro yung dalawang* case, Marlboro lights. *Ang dami kong kliyente*—ANC, dzMM and Channel 2."

For food, he and the other media people had to ask from the rebels, who gave them crackers and a little water.

"I was not afraid," he says. "I believed Maestrecampo when he assured me of my safety. My only worry was that I couldn't bring my tapes out of Oakwood, so they couldn't be aired. My report would suffer because it was all audio and had no visuals. *Pero okay lang daw kahit* audio, *sabi ng* boss *ko*."

Standing his ground

About 10 a.m., the rebels let into Oakwood a select group of about 10 media people to hear Trillanes air the soldiers' grievances. And then the soldiers sent them out again. "I was inside all throughout," says Elchico. "*Pero tinatanong ako ng ibang mga sundalo.* They said I wasn't supposed to be there. *Sabi ko, tinawagan ako ng kababata ko.*"

Maestrecampo told Elchico that after 5 p.m., President Macapagal-Arroyo's original deadline, and no agreement was reached, "I cannot assure your safety anymore."

Elchico says he was ready to go when that time came. "*Hindi ako magpapaka-bayani. Aalis ako kung kailangan.*"

When the soldiers later insisted that all media people leave after the 5 p.m. deadline was extended, Elchico stood his ground, but he tried to be inconspicuous. "I went to the rest room. I have a cousin, a second lieutenant, who was also in the soldiers' group. I told him to put me near the rest room where I could not be seen."

From his hiding place, Elchico continued his reports, even saying on the air that he was hiding from the soldiers.

Comic relief

It was still cat-and-mouse time for him and the soldiers by the time the negotiations were going on between the rebels and Malacañang representatives. "I could hear them from where I was, near the stairs between the 6th and 7th floors, until they saw me and sent me down.

"I really thought the soldiers would not give in because their stance during the early part was very hard," he says. "I wondered why. Personally, I think they have a point, that corruption really exists in the Armed Forces. The AFP system needs change."

"But as a reporter it's not for me to say what I believe," Elchico adds.

The siege had its funny gap, he says. "During the negotiations, one unidentified woman suddenly stood up and said, 'Can I butt in? *Nabigla si* (Ambassador Roy) Cimatu. Concerned citizen *daw yung babae*. Cimatu asked, 'How were you able to get in here?' *Pinalabas. Pati ako naapektuhan* (because the soldiers wanted me out of there, too)."

At the end of the stand-off and when the soldiers were leaving Oakwood late Sunday night, the other reporters welcomed Elchico with congratulations. "Kara David (of GMA 7) hugged me. 'Very good coverage,' she said. "I didn't expect to get that break at the flick of a finger. The bottom line is, *hindi ako ang importante, hindi ikaw, hindi kung sino mang* media person. The most important thing is getting the news and giving it to the people."

'Good job'

After it was all over Sunday night, when all that Elchico wanted to do was sleep, "I was instructed to go to the ABS van to do the weekend news." He was finally home by 2 a.m. Monday, almost 24 hours after the fateful phone call from Maestrecampo.

"I prayed. I thanked God, and I answered all my text massages, about 50 of them, from friends who said 'good job,' 'great job,' 'you're so brave.'

His family in Negros "were so proud of me," says the eldest of two boys and two girls. "My mom called me, *napuyat daw sila*."

Just before he dropped off to sleep at last, Elchico remembers thinking, "*Kaya ko rin pala gawin. Akala ko hilaw pa ako.*"

"I was an unknown," he adds. "Everybody was surprised."

That anonymity is starting to fade.

"I wanted to be a nurse," Elchico says, "because there's money in nursing. I took the entrance exam and passed. *Bigla na lang akong nag*-mass com *kasi sabi nila, yun ang pinakamadaling* course if you hate math."

Back to business

He started working at ABS CBN Bacolod in 1992, when he was 18 and a second year mass communications student at La Salle Bacolod. He was a writer, a "TV Patrol" co-anchor, a police beat reporter, and then an executive producer.

He left Bacolod in 1999 and moved to dzMM in Manila, where he was a writer until

TV/A31

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Don't lose heart

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST week at the CCP, we met **Francisco Aliwalas**, the Fil-American filmmaker and lead actor of the feature film, "Disoriented." Francisco was in town because his movie was being shown as part of the CCP's Sangandaan Festival. He was trying to get the film released commercially here, but no luck thus far.

Still, he wasn't about to lose heart. He had spent years getting his dream movie made, so he was used to problems and disappointments. In fact, he was already getting ready to shoot his second feature film, even if "Disoriented" has yet to earn back the money he and his partners had spent.

Our brief talk with Francisco proved to be an eye-opener because he cleared up some incorrect notions we had about independent filmmaking in the States.

All along, we believed reports that indie productions like "Blair Witch Project" had taken only less than $20,000 to make. Francisco said that this may have been true as far as the movie's shooting phase was concerned, but ancillary post-production costs would probably have increased the movie's total budget to something like $100,000. He revealed that "Disoriented" was a budget production, but it still had cost him and his friends some $90,000 to make. So, it isn't true that indie films can be made for a song in the States.

How did Francisco scrape up the $90,000 that it took to produce his film? By investing all of his savings, and using his and his partners' credit cards to their absolute limit.

Clearly, Francisco is so committed to filmmaking that he's prepared to suffer and do without many things that other people deem essential to a good life. His commitment should inspire young filmmakers here to be similarly determined in their efforts to get their own dream film projects on celluloid, and onto the silver screen.

All too often, young scriptwriters and directors blame "the system" for failing to make the movies they most want to produce. While the commercial system is indeed a major obstacle, Francisco proves it can be overcome.

If some young filmmakers here haven't been as successful, the fault, dear Oscar, may not be in "the system" but in themselves, that they have fallen short of the mark.

And so, to struggle—and prevail.

'Seabiscuit'

Tobey Maguire's new starrer, "Seabiscuit," tells the true story of the famous racehorse which captured Americans' imagination in the '30s, and the drastic changes the thoroughbred brought to the lives of the three men who contributed to its victories.

A great underdog story, "Seabiscuit" tells its inspiring tale within the tumultuous context of major events like the Depression and World War II.

Maguire plays Johnny "Red" Polland, a young man whose spirit has been broken. **Jeff Bridges** is Charles Howard, a millionaire who loses everything. And **Chris Cooper** portrays Tom Smith, a cowboy whose world is vanishing.

"Seabiscuit" is directed by **Gary Ross**, who has also megged "Pleasantville" and "Dave."

Feedback

MS **CLARA Silva** says she found our recent piece on the "Hollywoodization" of Filipino movies "analytical and enlightening."

She also asks us to devote a regular section to grammatical errors on TV, something more formal than "Boob-tube Booboos" that will surely use mistakes on TV to teach people how to speak and write English better.

For instance, Ms Silva notes that she recently heard a singer say "For Martin and I," which should really be "for Martin and me." And she observes that people still keep saying "Taken cared of," which is an example of English, Pinoy-style.

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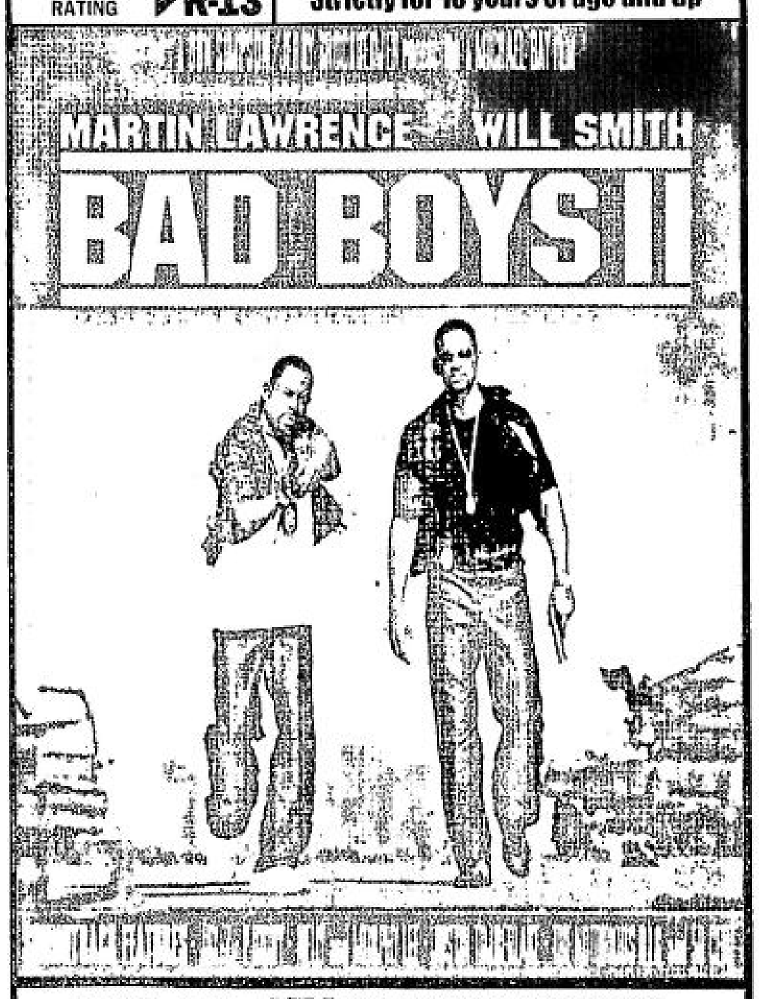
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 | Strictly for 13 years of age and up



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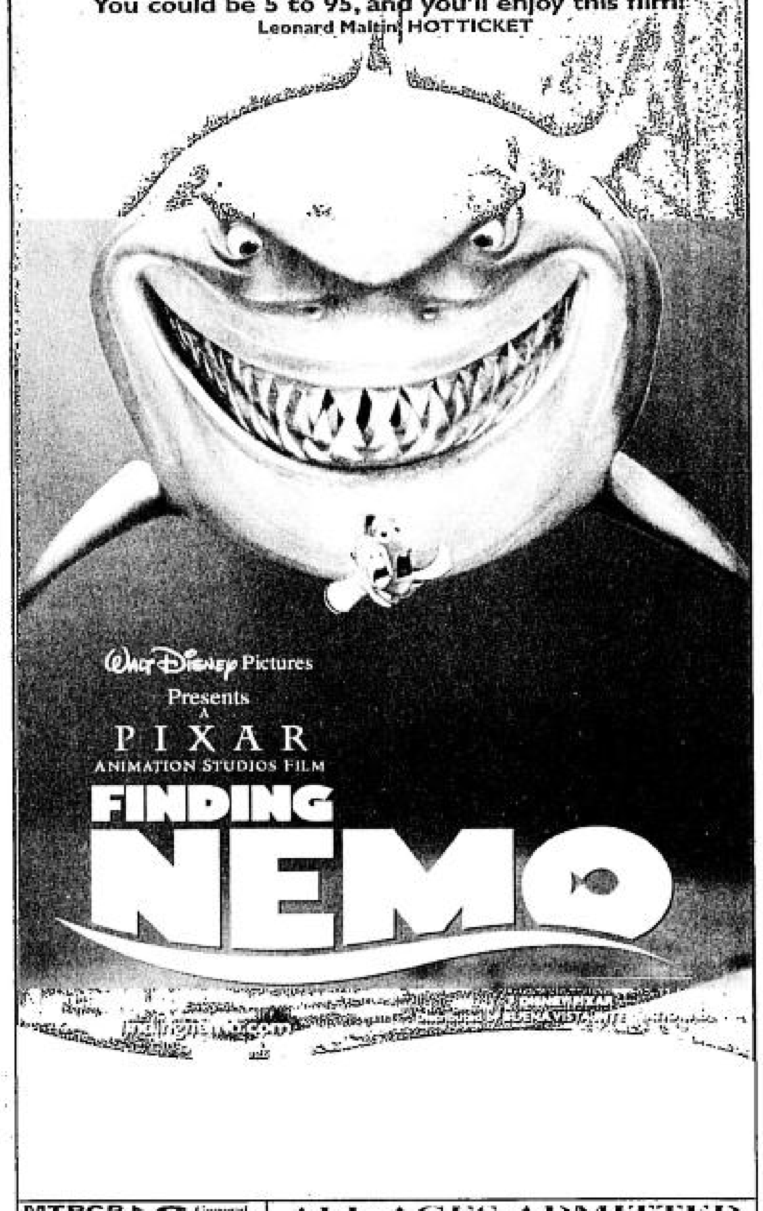

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Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
Ali 2	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 3	BULLET PROOF MONK
Ali 4	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 5	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 6	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 7	TOMB RAIDER 2

ARANETA COLISEUM

JULY 31	UAAP GAMES
AUG 01	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 02	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS
AUG 03	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 7	UAAP GAMES
AUG 9	UAAP GAMES
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	[illegible]

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	[illegible]
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SABIK SA PAGIBIG
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BAD BOYS 2
B	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAGI-BIG
CINEMA-2	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
CINEMA-7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-12	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-14	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-15	TOMB RAIDER 2

LORES

CINEMA-2	[illegible]
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA 2	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA 3	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA 4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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BAD BOYS 2 R13 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30	DOWN WITH LOVE PG13 1:30,3:35,5:40, 7:45,9:50	TOMB RAIDER 2 PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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CINEMA 2	Lara Croft TOMB RAIDER 2 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50 P13

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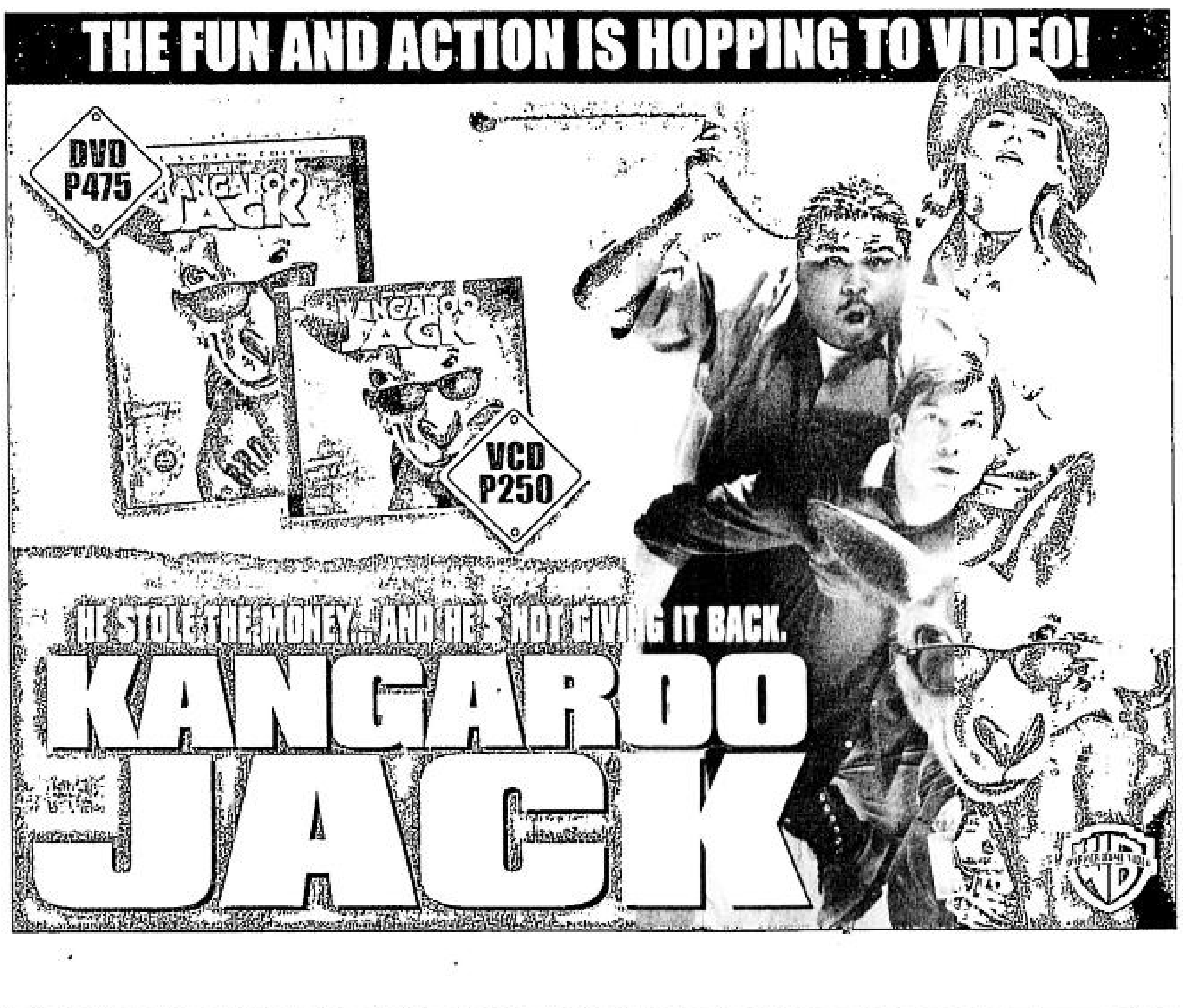

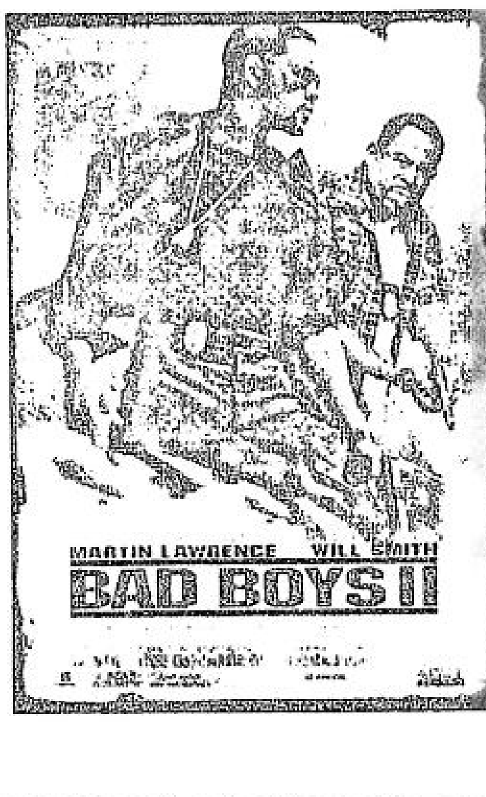

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MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)
COLUMBIA PICTURES
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TV reporter stages own coup

From page A29

early this year. He then covered Metro Manila's Eastern and Southern beats for Radyo Patrol. Today, he is a reporter in the ABS CBN business group, under Ces Drilon. "*Tubig, kuryente*, BIR, things that are easy to understand," he says of his business stories.

He goes back to business reporting following his Oakwood coup, according to Elchico.

What if shots had been fired last Sunday at Glorietta and he was still inside Oakwood?

"I'm not really ready to die for a story," says the candid Ilonggo. "It would be useless. *Magiging bayani ka, patay ka naman.* I'm still young, 29. *Darating pa ang mga istorya.*"

Cris Villongco sings retro . . .

From page A32

happy and blessed to have found friends there.

Do they know that she's a celebrity in Manila?

"Some do, some don't because I'd rather that they don't know," she says. "Only my really close friends know."

She tells her close friends that she's no Britney. Maybe not, but when we listen to her sing Norah Jones' "Don't Know Why" during the press con, we are convinced that she can easily match the Grammy winner's feat.

Cris is performing at Dish in Power Plant Mall on July 31 and Aug. 14. Entitled "Cris Villonco at Dish," the show will be an evening of retro music, where she will sing the likes of Dionne Warwick's "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," Aretha Franklin's "Natural Woman" and Frank Sinatra's "Something Stupid."

Close family friends Jose Mari Chan and Johnny Velasquez will be joining her in the show, along with the boy band 17:28. Another family friend, Martin Nievera, will also be a guest in the Aug. 14 show.

Asked why the retro concept, Cris smiles her sweet smile and says, "Because this is me. This concept is actually me. I want an evening of rare retro music. I was brought up listening to this kind of music and I love it."

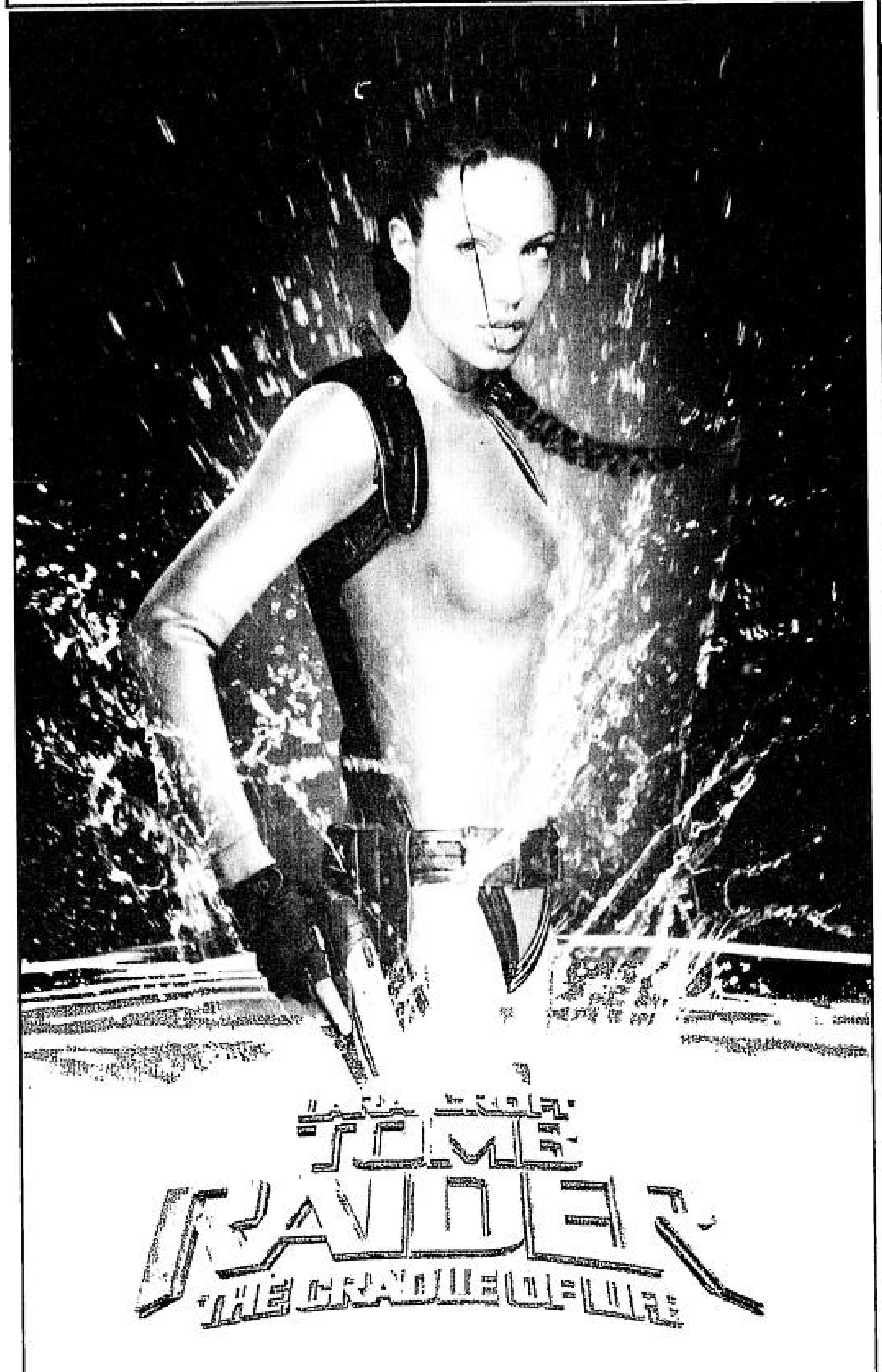
She is set to go back to New York on Aug. 27. But before she goes, she is also working on a new album from Viva Records, which will be released next month.

"The album is personal," she says. "We sat down, I told them my sob stories. So there, it's the story of my life and love life."

Love life? How colorful is her love life?

"I have somebody," she says. "He's from here and he's non-show biz so it's really of no interest to anybody except my mom," she reveals.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.



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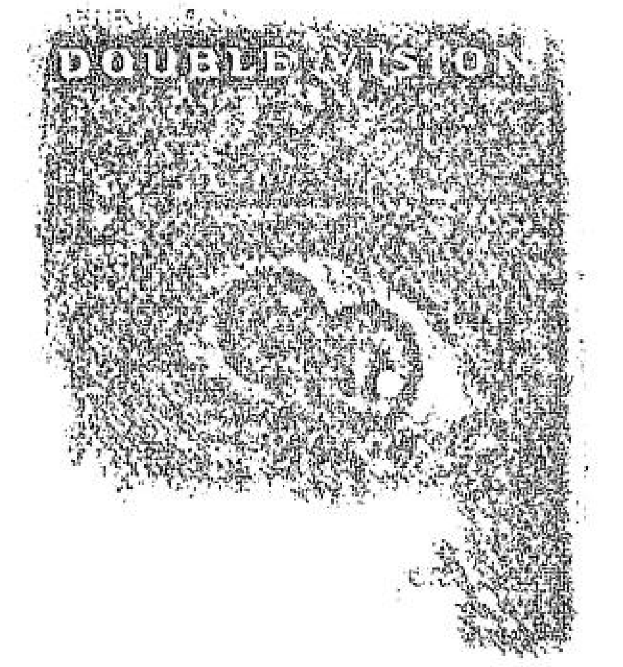

TONY LEUNG KA-FAI · DAVID MORSE · RENE LIU

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- A priest known for transporting illegal weapons is found in his bed, disemboweled, although there are no signs of struggle.

To solve these grisly crimes, the Taiwanese government is forced to enlist the help of an American FBI agent (David Morse, "The Green Mile", "Dancer In The Dark"). He is teamed with a troubled local cop (Tony Leung, "The Lover") and together they must do the impossible. Their journey will lead them into Taiwan's darkest corners and to an ancient cult in search of immortality.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)

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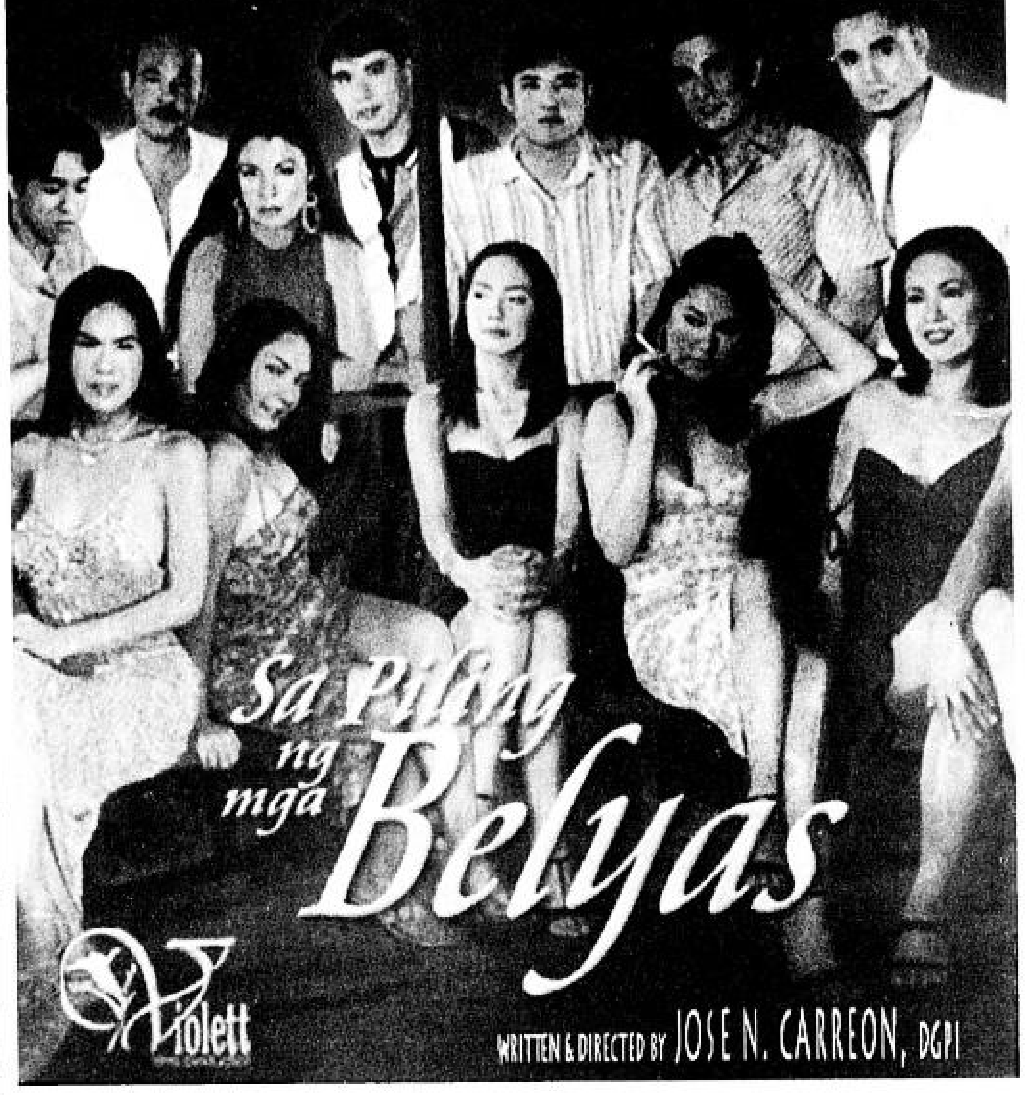
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Editor Louie C. Camino

TV reporter stages own coup

By Louie C. Camino

ALVIN Elchico was there while history was being made, inside Oakwood the whole day last Sunday. And for many hours of the tense, suspenseful day, he was alone as a media man, reporting the siege and the negotiations for dzMM, for two television stations, and for the rest of the country.

At one point during the infamous day, Malacañang officials reportedly complained why the inside details of the Oakwood takeover and even of the negotiations were directly being reported on radio. The officials can blame Elchico for that, while the rest of the listeners in the land can only be grateful to him, as well as to a few other media people in a very select group, for their blow-by-blow accounts.

For many breathless moments, Elchico was reporting from inside Oakwood alone, while the other reporters could only stand and wait outside while listening to dzMM for his reports.

Sunday was another shining moment for radio, and dzMM can correctly say, you heard it first on this station, with a lot of help from Elchico and his sober, Ilonggo-accented reports. And to think that he was not supposed to cover the Sunday siege in the first place, since he is a business reporter for cable TV station ANC.

Canceled meeting

"I have a friend and townmate (Capt. Milo Maestrecampo, one of the leaders of the Oakwood takeover)," recounts Elchico, a 29-year-old native of Negros Occidental. "He called me last Friday evening, saying he had a problem. I said, You can say it on the phone. Ayaw *niya, personal daw*."

"Saturday, we were supposed to see each other. I thought the problem was about money, or love. We grew up together in Talisay City in Negros. We were never really close, although we were in touch. *Hindi natuloy ang pagkikita namin*. He canceled it at the last minute. Sunday *na lang daw. Hindi pa rin sinasabi ang dahilan*."

Later on Saturday, Elchico was monitoring ANC when the ABS CBN cable TV station reported Malacañang's list of 10 junior officers who were plotting a rebellion. "*Iko*-court martial *na*," says Elchico. And Maestrecampo was one of the rebellious 10.

"So I called him up to confirm," says Elchico, with the Ilonggo accent that was heard the whole day last Sunday. "He confirmed the reports. I said, I need to interview you so that we can air your grievances. He said, 'Not yet, now is not the time.' And then he turned off his cell phone. I waited till midnight, and then I fell asleep."

3 a.m. call

At 3 a.m. Sunday, while he slept in the room in Frisco, Quezon City that he shares with a younger engineer brother, Elchico's phone rang. "It was him (Maestrecampo). *Sabi niya, 'sige, puwede na'ng* interview.'"

By that time, reporters were already milling outside Oakwood at the Glorietta. "I said I would be useless because there were already 4 or 5 reporters from ABS outside Oakwood. I insisted on the interview. He said yes."

Elchico reached the Glorietta area a little over 4 a.m. Shortly before 5 a.m., one rebel leader, Lt. 2nd Grade Antonio Trillanes fetched him, his cameraman, driver, and another man from the network's Myx channel.

"Trillanes' face was very stern when he fetched us," remembers Elchico. "No one spoke. He brought us straight to the 7th floor. The first interview I did was for dzMM, then for TV."

The soldiers, he recalls, were "all over, up to the 28th floor," although he and his group were allowed to move only between the basement and the 7th floor.

Ahead of the pack

For the next 17 hours, Elchico's reports were heard on dzMM and later on ANC and Channel 2. The strains of the risky reportage soon showed on the other reporters on dzMM as well as other radio and TV stations. Some were already panting or breathless by late afternoon. Elchico sounded calm and consistent up to the last minute. Sometimes, his voice on the radio would drop to a whisper and the listener had to strain to

TV/ A29

THE NEWS is what matters to Alvin Elchico, who says, "kaya ko pala"

JOEL SOL CRUZ

Cris Villonco sings retro: This is me

TAKING A BREAK, Villonco performs with family friends Chan and Velasquez.

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

FRESHMAN college is definitely a period of adjustment for every one of us, and Cris Villonco is no exception to that.

"It was my first time to be away from my family, and it was very difficult," says Cris, in Manila for the summer break from Sarah Lawrence College in New York. "I was very depressed. The first few months, I was crying."

But she is quick to point out that what she went through was not abnormal. A lot of her American friends in school experienced the same thing. The only difference was that they get to go home more often than she does. But with a big help from the mobile phone technology, she gets to talk to her mom everyday.

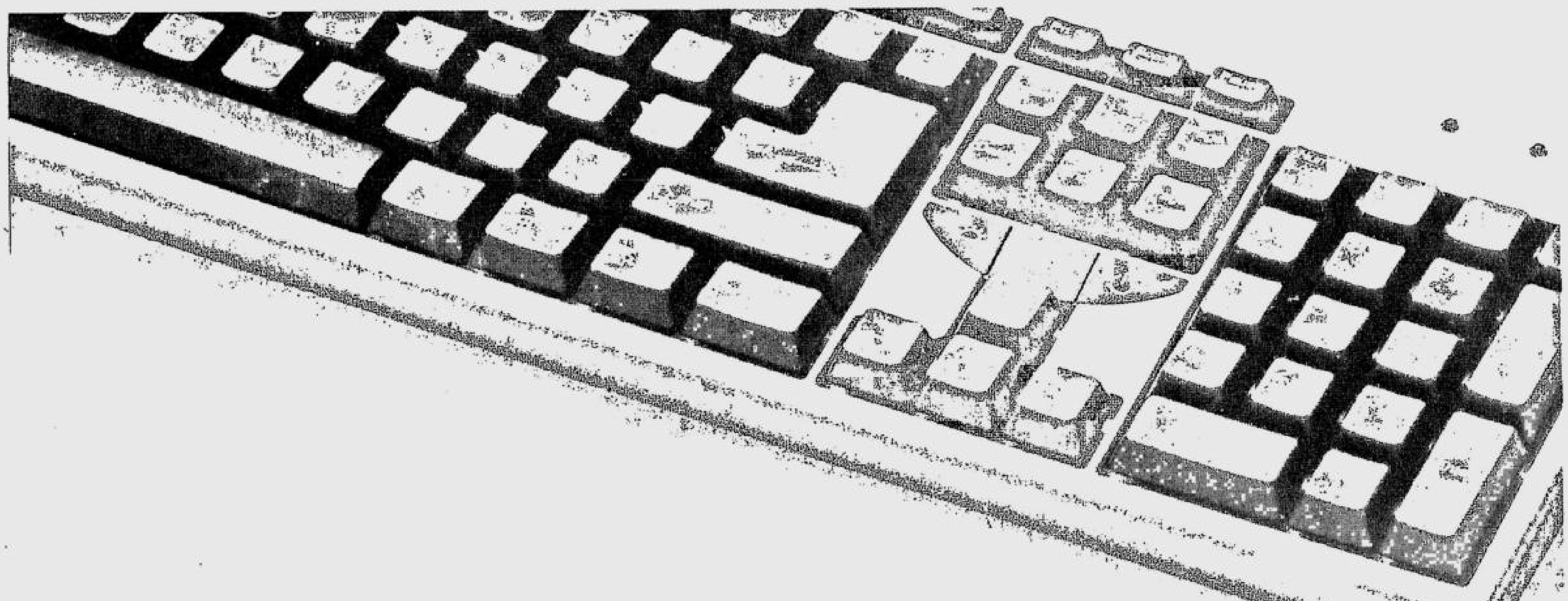
In New York, Cris stays in a dormitory, where she does her own laundry. She says she did not really have any difficulty adjusting to dorm life and curfews since she does not really party that much. But first year in college indeed taught her a lot of things, both in academics and in life.

"When you're there, since nobody is going to tell you what to do, you really learn how to take care of yourself and set boundaries for yourself," she says.

How to get along with people is another thing she has learned in the big city. "You have to be a little stronger when you deal with people there," she says. "*Dito, dapat marunong kang makisama. Doon siyempre, pakikisama* is also important, but at the same time, you should also know when to set your foot down when necessary."

The 19-year-old shares that she feels very

CRIS/ A31



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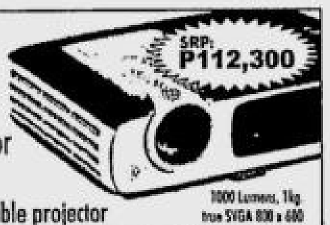
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Envoys say mutiny tainted RP image abroad

By Michelle V. Remo

AS EXPECTED, the mutiny over the weekend has taken its toll on the country's image as an investment site. And no less than foreign ambassadors attested to this.

Ambassadors Lise Favre and Rene Veyret of Switzerland and France, respectively, said the recent rebellion has further eroded the already tainted image of the Philippines before foreign businessmen abroad.

"Considering the situation, the perception abroad is that this is a country in permanent turmoil," Favre said in an interview during yesterday's general membership meeting of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry where she was one of the guest speakers.

Although the mutiny was quickly resolved and ended without bloodshed, Favre said what the international community normally considered was not the way a crisis was handled, but the fact that a crisis had occurred.

Favre said if there was anything the country should focus on to attract foreign investments, it should be the law and order situation, which a lot of businessmen seriously take into account.

She, however, said the Philippines deserved a better perception than what it was getting right now, adding that the law and order problem was present only in isolated areas and not in the entire country as some foreigners think.

"If peace in the South could be achieved and peace processes progress, then this could make a lot of difference. Peace and stability in your country would be the key to your success," Favre said.

Veyret, for her part, said the issue on law and order was just one of the many things which the country should deeply look into if it wanted to reverse its negative image abroad. "Everybody is speaking of peace and order, but you also have serious problems on labor," Veyret said.

The French ambassador said that while the recent rebellion was a big blow to the country's image, the Philippines should resolve a lot more problems than peace and order.

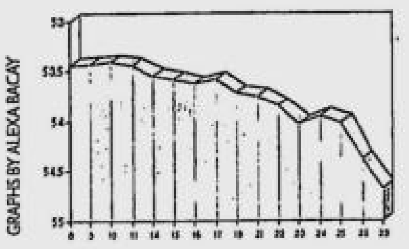
She said a number of French firms that established businesses here have complained about various problems, most common of which related to labor. She cited the French tire manufacturing firm Michelin, which moved out of the Philippines due to labor disputes.

Michelin, the biggest tire maker in France, invested $50 million in the Philippines, but its business operations here were halted after a labor strike went on for six months.

Veyret said aside from peace and order and labor, the country also has a "big problem" on the proper implementation of laws.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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As of 5 p.m., July 29, 2003

¥ 119.26 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 29, 2003

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per ounce Hong Kong, July 29, 2003

July 29, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.869792	1.000000	54.326000
Japan	Yen	0.007286	0.008377	0.455100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.414543	1.626300	88.350400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111529	0.128225	6.966000
Switzerland	Franc	0.646301	0.743052	40.367000
Canada	Dollar	0.628462	0.722543	39.252900
Singapore	Dollar	0.497081	0.571494	31.047000
Australia	Dollar	0.577091	0.663482	36.044300
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.307202	2.652590	144.104600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231939	0.266660	14.486600
Brunei	Dollar	0.495665	0.569866	30.958500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000117	0.006400
Thailand	Baht	0.020719	0.023821	1.294100
UAE	Dirham	0.236813	0.272264	14.791000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.149700	62.458600
Denmark	Kroner	0.134507	0.154643	8.401100
India	Rupee	0.018888	0.021716	1.179700
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228923	0.263193	14.298200
Mexico	New Peso	0.083274	0.095740	5.201200
New Zealand	Dollar	0.510382	0.586786	31.877700
Norway	Kroner	0.121426	0.139604	7.584100
Korea	Won	0.000735	0.000845	0.045900
Sweden	Kroner	0.108861	0.125158	6.799300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025359	0.029155	1.583900

STOCK MARKET

Shares end down 2.5%

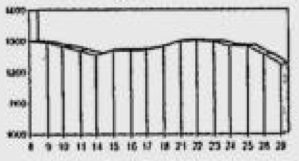
SHARES finished sharply lower yesterday as investors remained shaken by Sunday's military rebellion.

"There's still an air of uncertainty in the market," Astro del Castillo, director for the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines, told Dow Jones Newswires. "Investors lost their appetite after last weekend's development."

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 31.53 points, or 2.5 percent, at 1225.23, adding to Monday's 2.1-percent decline. Yesterday's fall brings the total loss of the main index to 5.9 percent since last Wednesday.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JULY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Big Meralco customers to get discounts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

BIG customers of Manila Electric Co. are expected to enjoy power rate discounts of up to P1.02 per kilowatt-hour as the Energy Regulatory Commission ordered the utility to implement the Special Program to Enhance Electricity Demand (Speed) program.

In an interview, ERC Chair Manuel Sanchez said Meralco was given provisional authority to give discounts of 12 centavos per kWh.

"But the National Transmission Corp. was also ordered to implement its Transmission Incentive Program or TIP, which gives a discount of 10 centavos per kWh," Sanchez said.

He added that Napocor, for its part, was giving a discount of 80 centavos per kWh for bulk users in Luzon.

"Napocor had filed a motion to have its discount rate modified, but it would have to implement the 80-centavo discount until the commission acts on the motion," Sanchez said.

BIG/ B5

Economic growth in RP, East Asia seen picking up

By Doris C. Dumlao

ECONOMIC growth in the Philippines and the rest of East Asia will likely pick up in the second semester and gain further momentum next year as threats from the SARS viral outbreak have fizzled out and the global environment has turned favorable, the Asian Development Bank said yesterday.

The ADB's latest quarterly Asian Economic Monitoring cited a report from London-based Consensus Economics Inc. that East Asia's gross domestic product (GDP) growth would likely hit 5.6-percent this year and accelerate to 6.3-percent next year.

The East Asian report covers the 10 Southeast Asian countries—the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam—plus the People's Republic of China and Korea.

Consensus Economics, which collates forecasts from about 200 economic and financial forecasters from more than 70 countries around the world, gave a 3.8-percent GDP growth forecast for the Philippines for this year and 4.2 percent for 2004.

The GDP forecast for the Philippines for 2003 was only slightly lower than the 3.9-percent projection made by Consensus Economics in February this year, while the 2004 forecast was kept at the previous level.

GDP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the domestic economy in a given period.

The ADB said slowing exports suggested that the second quarter growth in the Philippines might have been lower than the 4.5 percent chalked up in the first quarter but noted that growth for next near should improve on the continued strength of private consumption and improved exports.

"The Philippines is at present in the process of consolidating its fiscal position to lower public debt (about 70-percent of GDP) to more sustainable levels. The scope for supporting growth through fiscal stimulus is thus limited. Easing monetary policy could also lead to a depreciation in the peso, which, in turn, would inflate the burden of public debt," the ADB said.

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1.6L Wagon Club MT	₱ 918,000	₱ 459,000	₱ 38,251	₱ 25,501	₱ 19,126	₱ 12,751
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Mutiny on the bounty

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

AMERICAN troops killed Saddam Hussein's two sons and put them in body bags. Now, all they have to do is bag dad.

While Blas Ople was in Bali drinking barley water, the griping soldiers in Oakwood were drinking gripefruit juice.

I could not watch the SONA because FEAR FACTOR is on at 8 o'clock and I can't take too much excitement.

I was unable to write my article yesterday because I got arrested. I was outside Oakwood and I saw hundreds of soldiers, so I said "Coo!" Unfortunately, somebody thought I said "Coup" and I was hauled off to some camp, which has all its doors left open. I said, "This camp looks crummy," and they wanted to know how I knew its name. They obviously thought I was Mexican because they kept calling me gringo. Anyway, I was eventually sprung by an upholsterer and stuffed into a taxi dermist.

In French, a coup is a blow or a cut. If it has the support of the people at grass roots, it is known as a coup de grass. In English, it is a lawnmower.

* * *

I WANTED to write about the US market but local events have made that impossible. Last Friday, I read that Microsoft, IBM, Hewlett-Packard and a host of other information technology companies had decided to outsource much of their work to countries where labor costs were less than half, even allowing for office rents and upkeep. They chose India and the Philippines, as both countries have intelligent English-speaking workers who could do the job economically and efficiently. It would have meant additional well-paid jobs for the Philippines but now I am afraid they might cross us off their list. I agree that the mutiny might well set the economy back 18 months or more. And it won't do the tourism industry any good either.

The country seemed poised for recovery with the first-half budget deficit down from P120 billion to P80 billion, and June exports picking up 12 percent. The government had raised virtually all the foreign money it needed this year, and the central bank had brought the benchmark 91-day treasury bill yield down to 5.16 percent. This is the rate, which determines borrowing and lending for companies and individuals. The banks are so liquid that the government expects to borrow 80 percent of next year's requirements from local lenders. This would have taken pressure off the peso but now, all this good work has been undone, and the peso has fallen to 54.60. The dollar-denominated bonds also took a hit as investors became more risk-averse and started looking at the US 10-year note, which now yields a tempting 4.16 percent. If you believe that the US will recover, then this yield is quite attractive when compared with the 6.50-percent yield to redemption on Philippine dollar bonds.

I don't know if any readers are interested in psychology but I have always been fascinated by Carl Jung's term synchronicity, which is "meaningful coincidence." This suggests that the cause and effect might be more related that is apparent. I have noticed this phenomenon in the stock market over the past 51 years. Often, I have had a chart signal to SELL when everything seems to be going fine. Then, out of the blue, something bad and unexpected happens to justify the signal. Of course, it works in reverse as well. You get a BUY signal in the midst of a recession and suddenly, something good happens to justify it.

The most recent example was nine days ago when the Phisix was at its high for the year. I wrote to my subscribers, "Close all your trading positions because the degree of risk on every stock is between 90 and 100. If you bought Globe at P410 on my recommendation in the INQUIRER last year, SELL it at P740, because it has already reached its price target and the risk is too high." I don't know if people followed my advice since they deal through their own brokers, but the risk-meter was indicating that the market was extremely overbought. Globe is now P655.

The next day, I repeated my warning, saying that the amount of speculating in second liners was excessive and indicated danger. On Wednesday, in desperation, I pointed to the fact that two third-liners had gone limit up, and that Atok Big Wedge had jumped from P5.20 to P8 on 3,000 shares. The market had developed a "If you have never heard of the stock, BUY it," mentality, and that signified to me an imminent top. All this can be verified. Next day, the Phisix fell 20 points, closing 13 points lower, and on Monday, it opened 50 points lower and closed 27 points down. Today, it fell another 32 points with no sign of recovery. The only good news is that foreign brokers are still net buyers and today bought P138 million net, which represents a substantial percentage of volume traded. All other Asian markets are at their highs for the year so we should recover in due course.

I was absolutely convinced that the market was about to fall. The risk-meter at 1,308 said that mathematically, the market was far more likely to fall than to rise. There was no fundamental reason for my SELL recommendation but my sharply honed instinct kicked in, and was proven correct. Over my long experience in the stock market, this has happened over and over again. There is a true saying that "The market will do whatever it must to prove the majority wrong." So, when everybody is bullish, SELL.

I expect the risk-meter to show possible BUYS some time next week and I will highlight any stock that falls to an overbought level. Instead of publishing the data every Friday, I will do it on a daily basis so subscribers will know which stocks they should be following. When stocks appear to reach the bottom, I will ALERT them and on the first sign of a BUY signal, I will send it out. This will solve the problem of the one-day time lag, as subscribers will be in a position to take action even before I send out the BUY signal. I am constantly experimenting and trying for perfection, a goal that I can never achieve. But it doesn't stop me from trying.

Going back to cause and effect, is it not curious that last Thursday, the stock market was sold down heavily, and on Friday, there was an astronomical selldown of the peso ($252 million)? This is the largest amount that I can recall in recent times. Possibly, the plotters of the mutiny shorted the market and the currency. Food for thought. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 29, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	5,000
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	19	18.5	19	148,000
Bank Of The Phil. Islands	46.5	47	43.5	43.5	1,032,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	33.5	32	32	208,000
First E-Bank Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	90,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31	30	30.5	158,500
Philippine National Bank	25	25	25	25	56,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.5	279,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.75	22.75	22.25	22.5	402,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	320,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	120,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1560	1575	1560	1575	480
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.46	1.52	1.38	1.4	2,796,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1140	1150	1140	1150	2,490
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.25	46,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.67	0.67	6,050,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	670	650	655	143,770
Ipeople Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	100,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.049	0.049	10,400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	7,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.53	0.54	8,510,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	515	520	492.5	500	263,700
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	75,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12	12.25	11.25	11.25	575,600
Manila Electric Co. B	17.5	18	17.25	17.25	3,080,900
Petron Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.02	2.02	7,910,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	120,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	6,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.75	2,026,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.5	0.5	.5	.5	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,020,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.8	4.2	3.8	4.2	61,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	42,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	63,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.75	17.25	17.75	504,600
Swift Food, Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	250,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52.5	52.5	52	52.5	74,500
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	258,400
Universal Robina Corp.	5.9	6.1	5.9	6.1	117,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	90,000
Ayala Corp.	4.75	4.75	4.65	4.65	6,658,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	561,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	100,000
APC Group Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.09	0.09	2,910,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	16,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.82	1.88	35,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.74	0.76	0.68	0.69	28,380,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.14	0.14	900,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.185	0.185	670,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.075	0.095	0.075	0.085	2,600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.27	0.27	3,640,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	36,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	16.25	16.5	15.5	15.5	2,121,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.145	0.12	0.12	5,250,000
Ionics Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.48	1.48	1,728,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	4,786,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,600,000
Medco Holdings	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.76	0.77	0.72	0.72	2,400,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	60,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.28	14,730,000
Music Corporation	0.42	0.42	0.35	0.38	5,500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.17	0.21	0.17	0.18	6,740,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.115	0.165	0.115	0.165	4,550,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	60,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.31	0.32	1,470,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.085	0.12	0.085	0.115	29,600,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	250,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corporation	0.58	0.58	0.55	0.56	6,810,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.47	0.47	1,070,000
Mondragon Intl Phils, Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	300,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	690,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (PDR)	20.5	20.5	20	20	85,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	30,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	9,536,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	230,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.205	0.195	0.195	5,720,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.235	0.235	5,960,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	0.99	0.99	18,730,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.1	2.16	2.1	2.16	20,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.27	0.28	0.23	0.24	6,210,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.21	0.215	8,940,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2	80,000
SM Development Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	500,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.2	6	6	9,498,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.135	0.15	0.135	0.15	20,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	5,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	5,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.004	0.004	60,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0034	0.0034	130,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,400,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	6,700,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	50,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	50,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.034	0.03	0.033	31,400,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	150,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	140,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	5,618,770	85,464,480.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	312,096,970	480,170,760.00
PRO	65,634,000	144,939,390.00
Mining	196,635,000	910,950.00
OIL	144,390,000	1,540,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	724,374,740	713,026,480.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	431.87	DOWN 22.51
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,755.00	DOWN 22.02
PRO	555.18	DOWN 20.85
Mining	1,157.73	DOWN 1.53
OIL	1.39	DOWN 0.01
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	766.03	DOWN 4.55
Composite	1,225.23	DOWN 31.53

NO. OF ADVANCES: 25, NO. OF DECLINES: 59, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 30, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 114, NO. OF TRADES: 3,722

Moody's upgrades PLDT rating outlook to positive

MOODY'S Investors Service yesterday changed Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s outlook to positive from stable. At the same time, Moody's affirmed PLDT's senior unsecured rating of Ba3 and its preferred stock rating of B2.

It said the revised outlook was based on continued improvements in the operating performance of Smart Communications Inc., the wholly owned cellular subsidiary of the company, and the financial and debt maturity profile of PLDT with ongoing free cash flow expected to help repay debt maturities in the coming years.

Moody's said that the ratings reflected PLDT's position as a leading integrated telecommunications provider in the Philippines with significant market share and strong Ebitda margins.

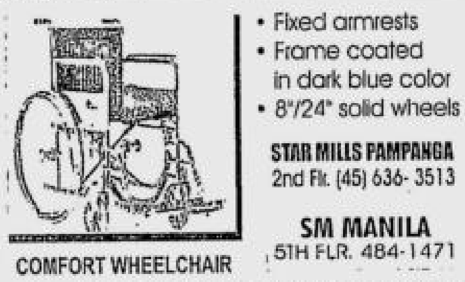
It also reflected PLDT's improving financial profile on the back of a strengthening operating performance facilitating debt reduction, and relatively lower capital expenditure spending as a result of the completion of its infrastructure buildout, it added.

However, the ratings also reflected concerns over PLDT's high gearing level, exposure to peso-dollar exchange rate movements, and exposure to potential adverse political and regulatory developments in the Philippines that could affect the revenue and competitive position of the company.

The strong operating performance was mainly driven by Smart, PLDT's operating performance in fixed line remaining flat. The growth in consolidated Ebitda by 12 percent to P25.3 billion in the first half mainly stemmed from the strong growth in Smart.

PLDT continued to generate positive free cash flow (P10.3 billion in the first half) and has reduced a total of $165 million in debt. *Reuters*

IMPORTED WHEELCHAIR



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CEBU 262-32-39	SM SOUTHMALL Basement bo2 15-65	ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061

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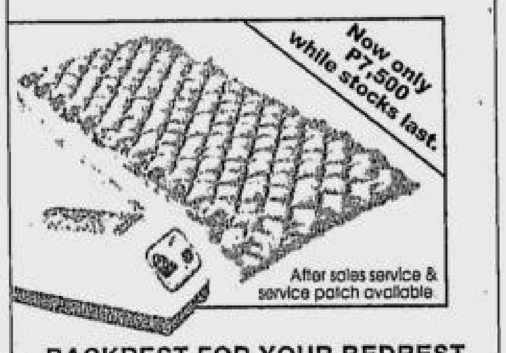
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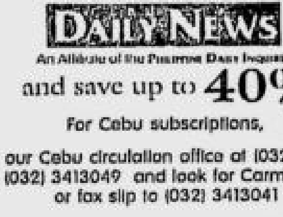

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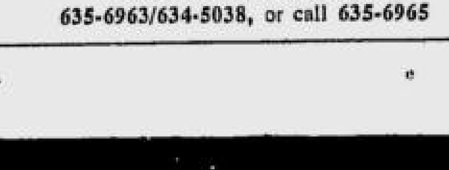

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DISCLOSURES

APC Group Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 26, 2 p.m. at the Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Only stockholders of record as of July 25 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ACTIVE Alliance Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 18, 2 p.m. at the Function Room of Subic Bay Yacht Club, Olongapo City. Only stockholders of record as of July 25 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

JERRY Tiu resigned as director of IVantage Corp.

* * *

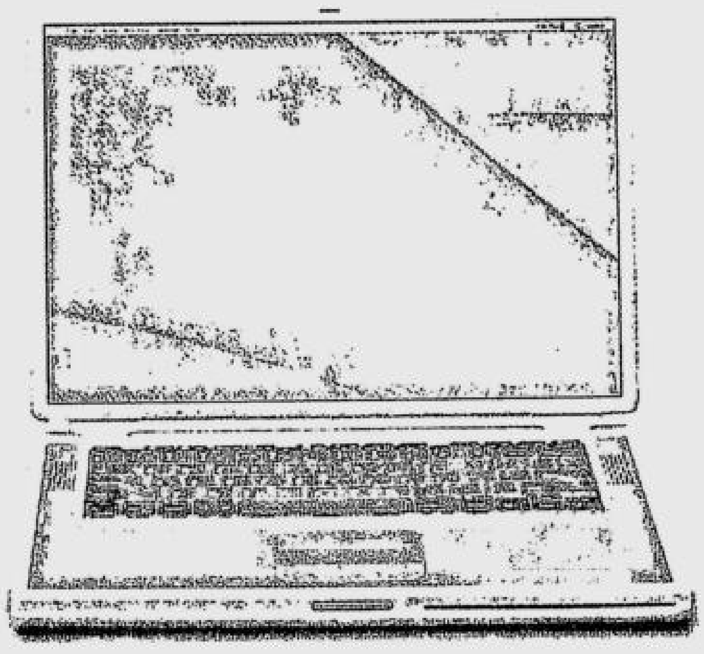
ACESITE (Philippines) Hotel Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 20, 4 p.m. at the Nautilus I Function Room of Manila Pavilion Hotel, Ermita, Manila. Only stockholders of record as of June 30 are entitled to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

INTEREST RATES

July 29, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 29-Jul-03	MART1 28-Jul-03
1 Month	6.3393	6.5554
3 Months	6.4482	6.5429
6 Months	7.1038	7.1167
1 Year	7.6117	7.6083
2 Years	8.9321	8.925
3 Years	9.6233	9.6517
4 Years	10.0233	10.05
5 Years	10.2933	10.2817
7 Years	11.1133	11.12
10 Years	11.5367	11.56
20 Years	12.0424	12.0617
25 Years	12.35	12.3883

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

THEM



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DSL INTERNET

Metrobank defers $125-M tier-2 issue

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co., the country's largest lender, will defer its planned issuance of at least $125 million in 10-year tier-two capital-qualifying notes after the foreign market for Philippine paper turned sour in reaction to the failed weekend mutiny against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"With what had happened, we will really have to wait (for the market to improve)," Metrobank president Antonio Abacan Jr. said yesterday.

Earlier, an industry source said that Metrobank was set to issue tier-two capital notes by late this month or early next month.

The bank had already obtained the approval of the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, for the issuance of at least $125 million of the notes with the option to increase the size of the issue by an additional $75 million.

Abacan noted that before the failed mutiny, the price indication for the issuance of the notes had been "very good, very attractive."

"We are checking the market," Abacan said.

After the mutiny, investors dumped Philippine sovereign dollar bonds. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Oakwood stories

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

ONE of the elevators of Oakwood Premiere still stank of sweat and worn rubber shoes when the luxury apartment complex reopened its doors for business 1 p.m. Monday.

Except for the smell and a maintenance crew still fixing the curtains of the sixth floor restaurant—the blinds had also been shuttered, fastened by the mutineers with dinner forks—there was hardly any reminder of the mayhem, the media stampede and the rogue band of soldiers who had seized and ringed the complex with explosives the day before.

As early as 10 p.m. Saturday, the Makati police had already dispatched nine patrol cars in key intersections leading to the Ayala Center, after receiving reports that rogue soldiers, in a repeat of the 1989 coup attempt, had planned to seize the commercial complex again.

According to an after-operations report, the Makati police checkpoint at the corner of Makati Avenue and Pasay Road first spotted "heavily armed men in fatigue uniform more or less 25 on board a bus colored cream with Plate No. XET 362" around 12:20 a.m. Sunday.

After the bus disgorged its armed passengers and their lethal cargo on the Glorietta 4 driveway, Chief Insp. Westrimundo Obinque, Station 6 commander, "tried to talk to the group to verify their purpose."

"However," the police report added, "nobody want[ed] to talk to him" as a number of the infantry soldiers rushed to the underground car park while others took up positions along the driveway.

Instead of stopping or arresting the raiders, Makati Police Chief Supt. Jovito Gutierrez ordered Obinque and his pistol-packing men "to keep distance" especially when, 10 minutes later or about half past midnight, 200 more battle-ready soldiers led by Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes and Capt. Gerardo Gambala joined the first wave of commandos.

Channel 21 business news anchor Ricky Carandang was at Robinsons Galleria having finished a late dinner when Edsa II activists on vigil at the Edsa Shrine tipped him off about the brewing Makati crisis.

Carandang rushed to Ayala in time to witness Trillanes and his men wiring the pocket park and car park bound by Hotel Inter-Continental, Rustan's and Glorietta 4 with explosives.

"On or about 0130H, the rebel troops, with red cloth bands tied around their left arms, began wiring off their occupied areas with bombs," as the after-operations report prepared by Supt. Efren Haban Ysulat put it.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay arrived at the Makati police headquarters on J.P. Rizal Street (beside the Makati City Hall near the Pasig River, for those unfamiliar with Makati geography) around 2:45 a.m. along with his son Councilor 'Junjun" Binay and there activated the city's crisis management committee.

According to the grapevine, the media-savvy mayor decided to keep a low profile this time, considering it was he who supplied the pro-Erap goons that stoned Ayala Avenue buildings during the gasping moments of the Estrada administration.

Over at the Pacific Plaza, Mrs. Imelda Marcos was one of the more famous residents who left the luxury condo "very early" Sunday morning, apparently out of fear of a repeat of the 1989 Ayala takeover, according to the grapevine.

With its commanding view over the Glorietta 4 complex, the Pacific Plaza security decided to padlock the rooftop despite a deluge of requests from remaining residents who had wanted a better view, especially as the original 5 p.m. Malacañang deadline for the rebels to surrender neared.

Despite being outside the line of fire, the McDonald's outlet overlooking the Ugarte field on Paseo de Roxas shut down the whole day Sunday, as well as five other branches within the Ayala Center. The new branch at The Fort, where companies of pro-government soldiers were also being held in reserve, also decided against opening.

Unlike during the 1989 affair when it became a target and its building pockmarked with shots, Mandarin Hotel this time decided to keep the hotel and its restaurants open. The day before, the business hotel had about 90-percent occupancy—Jamby Madrigal and her royal husband call Mandarin a home while the ancestral Madrigal residence in New Manila is being renovated—but by Sunday afternoon, occupancy had evaporated to 60 percent.

By yesterday noon, occupancy had improved to 70 percent, said Mandarin spokesperson Charisse Chuidian.

In Oakwood, all the residents who had evacuated, except for five guests who were due to check out, have returned by Monday afternoon, according to Ayala Land president Francisco Licuanan.

And by Monday evening, a much-relieved Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon threw a cocktail party for some 500 guests of Oakwood, Inter-Continental, and Shangri-La who had been evacuated to and by then had trickled back from the Bay-area hotels.

Even the strikers at SM Makati who had been driven away by the military takeover were back at their picket lines again.

Erap jokes revived

THE LATEST military misadventure and its alleged Estrada links have revived the Erap joke industry. Here are a number of them being bounced through text messages:

- JOSEPH Estrada had to be hurriedly sent back to the Veterans hospital from the ISAFP compound in Camp Aguinaldo after one agent registered their famous prisoner with a giveaway pseudonym—Fathur al-Go-home.
- THIS one came from the civil/evil society. The rebels could not knock Gloria out of Malacañang, so they had to settle for Glorietta instead.
- LAWYER to lawyer: I believe Erap is innocent of these charges until he runs out of money.
- A GROUP of AFP generals is planning to stage a mutiny at Camp Aguinaldo. The generals are calling themselves the "Magkano Group"
- AND this from a Richard Gomez fan. What's the difference between Ferdinand Marcos and Jinggoy Estrada? *Si Marcos taga-Batac, si Jinggoy taga-batok.*

Heard through the grapevine

GLORIETTA and Greenbelt tenants are asking Ayala Land for a lease discount in view of the whole-day closure of the Ayala Center on Sunday.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

BIR, Customs seen hitting July collection goals

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT'S main revenue-generating agencies, the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs, are expected to meet their collection targets for the fourth consecutive month in July, top agency officials said yesterday.

This confirms the improvement in the government's performance in keeping its budget deficit within the ceiling this year after overshooting its program last year to the disappointment of the financial markets.

"We're getting there. We are just a few millions away from the target," Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said.

Parayno said it looked like the BIR would meet its revenue target of P33 billion for the month of July.

The BIR is the government's biggest revenue collector accounting for about 70 percent of total revenue take.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo is similarly optimistic.

"We will meet our target," he said, noting that the agency's collection goal for the month stood at P9.2 billion.

The government has been posting improvements in its fiscal performance since April this year.

In the first semester of the year, it was able to contain the budget deficit at P79.6 billion or P22.6 billion lower than the P102.2 billion ceiling for the period.

Revenue in the first six months reached P306.3 billion, up by 14.9 percent from last year's level and 7.3-percent ahead of the P285.5 billion target for the period. Spending stood at P385.9 billion against a ceiling of P387.8 billion for the first semester.

Cebu pushing for 'pocket' open-sky policy

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CENTRAL Visayas Regional Tourism Council has submitted a resolution to President Macapagal-Arroyo urging the Civil Aeronautics Board to promote Cebu as a primary international gateway in air talks with other countries.

In a letter to the President dated July 4, the council said the resolution was drafted as a proposed executive order that would give Cebu a "pocket open-sky policy," which was seen to boost tourism in the province and in the whole region.

"This aggressive step towards pocket open sky for Cebu will surely boost tourism and will greatly help the economy of Cebu and the Central Visayas region," the council said in the letter.

The proposed EO urged the CAB to encourage foreign flag carriers to land at the Mactan Cebu International Airport, an alternative to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila.

Particular attention was given to South Korea and United Arab Emirates as, the resolution stated, these two countries provided the "remaining bright prospects in our international travel market."

The resolution pointed out that 90 percent of international flights landed at the Naia, with the remaining 10 percent split among all other international gateways in the country.

Channeling more of these flights to alternative international airports like those in Cebu and Davao would not only provide accessibility to more tourist destinations in the country, but would also spur economic activity in areas outside Metro Manila, the draft EO added.

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Big ...

From page B1

Industry sources said Napocor wanted its discount reduced to 50 centavos as the previously approved amount (80 centavos) still had transmission charges incorporated in it.

In a seven-page order dated July 25, the ERC said Phase I of the Speed program covered industrial and commercial electricity users with a demand of at least 1,000 kW a month.

Also, the consumer must have been a Meralco customer since July 2001. The quasi-judicial body said that there were 224 such consumers eligible for the discounts.

Sanchez said the discount would be effective starting the next billing cycle.

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P 5,000,001 and above	6.375%	6.625%	6.875%

DOLLAR TIME DEPOSIT			
$ 1,000 - $10,000	1.250%	1.250%	1.250%
$ 10,001 - $100,000	1.625%	1.625%	1.625%
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US economy showing more signs of recovery

WASHINGTON—The economy may at last be pulling out of a three-year slump that began with a bursting stock market bubble and was intensified by recession, terrorist attacks, corporate scandals and war.

Analysts hope that spotty signals of a rebound will intensify in coming weeks into a convincing set of statistics that will show the economy is indeed picking up.

"The economy seems to be shifting into a higher gear and we should start seeing that in the numbers," said Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Banc of America Capital Management.

Some of that better news is expected this week, starting with the Conference Board's report on consumer confidence, which Reaser said is likely to rise to its highest level since last fall.

That confidence is expected to get a further boost as Americans start benefiting from a new $330 billion tax cut package passed in May. This month some Americans started seeing fatter paychecks and some families got checks in the mail from a $400 per child increase in the child tax credit.

For the economy to mount a sustainable rebound, Americans will need to turn around and start spending that money. Most economists believe that will happen, giving a good boost to retail sales in coming months.

"We think almost all of the child tax credit payments will get spent," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. "Those checks will be arriving just when families will need the money for back-to-school items."

By giving Americans more disposable income, the tax cuts are also expected to help lift consumer confidence. Analysts believe that Tuesday's report on consumer confidence could show a gain to around 85 for June, up from 83.5 in May. That would be the highest reading since last fall and an indication that consumer optimism is rebounding from the jittery days before the Iraq war.

Three members of President George W. Bush's Cabinet—Treasury Secretary John Snow, Commerce Secretary Don Evans and Labor Secretary Elaine Chao—will take a bus tour through Wisconsin and Minnesota on Tuesday and Wednesday, meeting with factory workers, small business owners and families to promote the benefits of the new tax cuts.

It is part of the administration's campaign to blunt Democratic charges that Bush's three rounds of tax cuts have gone primarily to the wealthy and have done little to boost the economy.

There is no doubt that economy has been lagging, with the gross domestic product, the economy's total output of goods and services, growing at very anemic rates.

Analysts believe that the GDP in the April-June quarter, which the Commerce Department will report on Thursday, grew at a sluggish rate of 1.8 percent, almost as weak as the 1.4 percent rates turned in during the fourth quarter last year and the first three months of this year.

The sluggish GDP has pushed the unemployment rate to a nine-year high of 6.4 percent in June, as businesses slashed payrolls for a fifth straight month. *AP*

PRESIDENT George W. Bush greets attendees of the 2003 National Urban League conference in Pittsburgh on Monday. Bush, making a rare appearance before the group, which represents black Americans, said the US economy is showing fresh signs of improvement. AP

Japan jobs up but retail sales weaken

TOKYO—Japan's jobless rate eased slightly to 5.3 percent in June, the first improvement in three months, but weak retail sales tempered optimism that the economy was on the mend.

Unemployment data from the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications on Tuesday were better than expected in a Reuters poll last week of 20 economists, whose median forecast was a 5.4 percent jobless rate, the same as May.

The number of employed, including self-employed, was up by 380,000 to 64.11 million, rising for the second straight month and prompting some economists to argue that economic conditions had, at the very least, stopped deteriorating.

"I think we can say conditions have stabilized," said Mizuho Research Institute economist Yoshimasa Maruyama.

Retail sales fell in June for the 27th straight month, dropping 2.3 percent from a year earlier.

Shuji Shirota, an economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein, predicted further weakness ahead.

With no one anticipating a strong recovery in domestic demand any time soon, economists say any significant upturn in the economy is dependent on business conditions in the United States, Japan's biggest trading partner. *Reuters*

WTO SCUM
YOUR TIME
ME

LAETITIA Francoz-Levesque, a 4-year-old Montreal girl, traces her anti-globalization sign with her finger prior to a family friendly march to protest the World Trade Organization meetings in Montreal. Twenty-five trade ministers are meeting in Montreal for a three day "mini-ministerial" starting Monday to find common ground over issues of farm subsidies and medicine for poorer countries prior to a WTO summit in Cancun, Mexico in September. REUTERS

Citigroup, JP Morgan settle Enron probe

NEW YORK—Citigroup Inc. and JP Morgan Chase & Co. on Monday paid more than $300 million to settle charges by securities and law enforcement officials they helped Enron Corp. cheat investors out of billions of dollars.

The settlement with the US Securities and Exchange Commission and Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau brings an 18-month investigation to a close and lets the two largest US banks avoid criminal prosecution for securities fraud.

The probe found that Citigroup and J.P. Morgan Chase structured complex deals that allowed energy trader Enron to hide debt and inflate its cash flow before it filed for bankruptcy protection in late 2001. The banks neither admitted nor denied the charges as part of the agreement.

Under the agreement, J.P. Morgan paid regulators $135 million to close out an investigation into its role in the Enron fiasco. Citigroup said it paid $120 million, which also included about $19 million to settle other charges.

The money will be put into a fund for victims of fraud at Dynegy and Enron. In addition, Morgenthau said the banks will each pay another $25 million to be split between New York State and New York City and pay investigation costs. *Reuters*

Australia's deficit to hit '03 growth

SYDNEY—Australia racked up a record annual trade deficit in 2002-2003 that is sure to drag on the country's previously strong economic growth, analysts said Tuesday.

The deficit blew out to 19.75 billion Australian dollars ($13.04 billion) in the financial year to June, the highest since records began in the 1970s and compared with the previous year's relatively modest shortfall of 1.65 billion dollars.

Treasurer Peter Costello blamed the deterioration in the international trade ledger on the impact of the worst drought in a century and said there would be no change until the global economy picked up.

Analysts said the problem was exacerbated by a rising local currency and increased spending on imports in the face of a global slowdown.

They said Australia moved further into the red as the year progressed, with a record quarterly deficit of 6.87 billion dollars in the three months to June.

Westpac chief economist Bill Evans said the figures were beginning to ring alarm bells.

"We've had a lot stacked up against us," Evans said. *AFP*

Ministers talk trade as riots break out

MONTREAL—Trade ministers from 25 countries ignored outbursts of street riots by protesters and worked to find compromises to disputes over agricultural trade, investment and drug prices for the world's poor.

The ministers were in Montreal at the invitation of Canadian Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew to try to find solutions to problems that negotiators and diplomats have so far failed to resolve at the Geneva-based World Trade Organization.

A small group of protesters, opposed to what they consider the enrichment of developed countries at the expense of poor nations, briefly rampaged through downtown Montreal around midmorning Monday, smashing store windows and attacking US symbols.

"Capital is moving across borders with increasing frequency on the backs of the poorest and most marginalized people of the world," declared one protester, Tony Tracy, who works for the homeless in Toronto.

The protesters smashed windows at a Burger King restaurant and a Gap clothing store on Montreal's main shopping street and attacked a Canadian Forces recruitment center before police dispersed them after about 45 minutes. Police said they made about 100 arrests.

Negotiators meeting inside a luxury hotel for three days of talks expressed confidence progress could be made in bridging differences before a meeting of all 146 members of the WTO in Cancun, Mexico, in September.

That meeting must make a number of difficult decisions if the WTO is to achieve its aim of completing an international treaty on opening trade by the end of next year.

"People do seem to understand the stakes involved here. We have this opportunity for us to make a major positive contribution to the international economic system," said Deputy US Trade Representative Peter Allgeier.

When ministers launched the negotiations, in Doha, Qatar, in November 2001, they aimed to make big cuts in import tariffs on goods and services as a way to boost the global economy.

But disagreements remain on how to go about doing it, especially in the sensitive area of agriculture, where the European Union is facing demands to cut its massive farm subsidy program and make big cuts to import tariffs. Brussels says it won't consider this unless some of its demands are met.

WTO director general Supachai Panitchpakdi said it's vital for the negotiations to succeed.

"I see that the round will face difficulties," he said. "But failure of the round isn't an option."

Uruguayan WTO Ambassador Carlos Perez del Castillo, who chairs the body's General Council, said Montreal would be a chance for countries to start softening their positions. *AP*

WorldCom faces new investigation

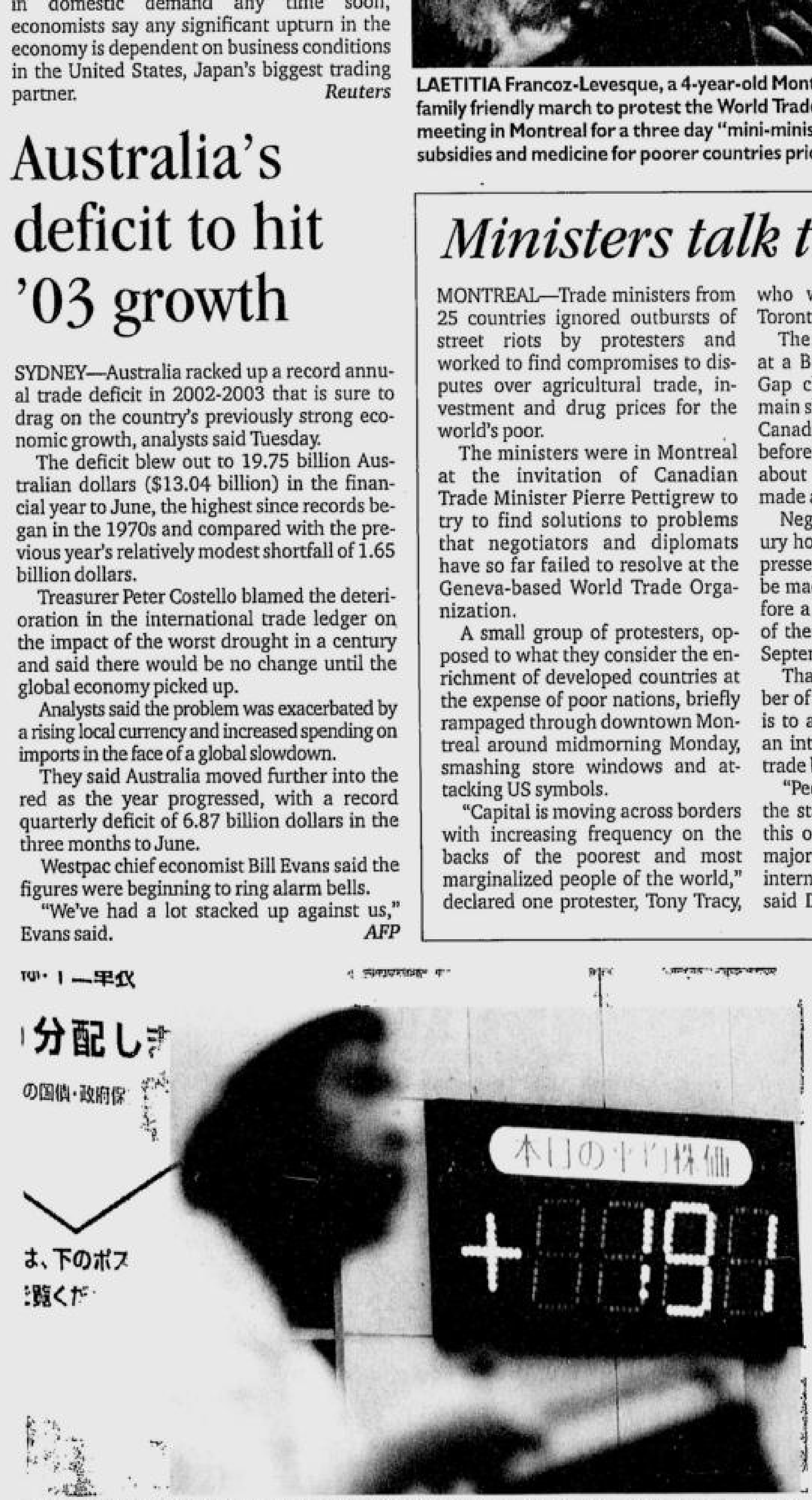
NEW YORK—MCI, the new name for bankrupt telecom group WorldCom, found itself in more turmoil after reports of a fresh probe of allegations of re-routing of calls to avoid millions or even billions of dollars.

AT and T filed a complaint with the US bankruptcy court seeking the right to seek damages caused by MCI's alleged scheme and said the court should deny the MCI plan to emerge from bankruptcy.

AT and T said it will "bring racketeering and fraud" charges against its rival, saying that its suffered "many millions of dollars" in damage.

Calling it a "disturbing new development," AT and T General Counsel Jim Cicconi said in a statement that the "investigation raises serious questions as to the validity of MCI/WorldCom's assurances that it has cleaned up its act."

An MCI spokesperson declined to comment on the specific allegations but said disputes over access charges "have existed for decades and are routine in the industry," but that the company would "cooperate fully with any investigation." *AFP*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A JAPANESE noodle delivery man carries his ware as the day's rise in Japan's Nikkei average glows outside a brokerage in Tokyo. Stocks resumed their rise to close at three-week highs on Monday, bolstered by gains in firms with solid earnings prospects. REUTERS

Asian stocks steady, dollar slips

SINGAPORE—Investors braced on Tuesday for a run of snapshots on the strength of corporate earnings and the US economy, leaving Asian stocks and the dollar a touch softer and pushing US Treasury yields to an eight-month peak.

With top Japanese companies announcing quarterly earnings and a heavy week of US indicators, investors appeared unwilling to make big bets on the health of the world's top two economies.

There were contrasting fortunes for top technology stocks.

Fujitsu Ltd slumped 3.7 percent after the Japanese chip and computer giant announced weak quarterly earnings and lowered its half-year earnings forecast. But Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, the world's largest memory-chip maker, rose 1.3 percent to a 15-month high in South Korea.

Tokyo's Nikkei stock average closed barely changed at 9,834.31, while an MSCI index of shares elsewhere in the Asia Pacific eased 0.2 percent from a 13-month peak struck on Monday.

The dollar eased a touch but stayed in tight ranges as the market awaited direction from a hefty series of US data slated for this week.

The dollar was fetching 119.29 yen, compared with a late US level of 119.42. The euro was trading at $1.1512 versus $1.1489 in late US trade.

In the stock markets, investors in Japan were awaiting reports by key companies such as Honda Motor Co., the country's second-largest auto maker. It fell 1.7 percent before reporting a lower quarterly profit after the market closed.

Elsewhere, benchmarks rose 0.6 percent in Hong Kong in morning trade, but closed 0.4 percent weaker in Australia and fell 0.7 percent in Singapore by the lunch break.

South Korea rose 0.6 percent, helped by Samsung.

Taiwan was the weakest market, sliding two percent from a 13-month peak. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp. fell 1.7 percent after one of its customers, US chip designer Nvidia Corp., warned second-quarter gross margins would be below expectations.

Philippine assets continued to fall in the aftermath of the weekend's short-lived mutiny. *Reuters*

PEOPLE at WORK

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MANAGING YOUR CAREER TO THE TOP

How to handle a 'problem boss'

By Josie O. Santamaria

(This is the fourth installment of the series of articles on "Managing your career to the top.")

DOES your boss make negative remarks about your work in front of others? Does he shout at or even curse you? Is he impatient and finds fault with you often? Does he get into temper tantrums? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, you have a "problem boss."

A "problem boss" is one who is aggressive and mean to his subordinates, as a way of coping with his own insecurities and fears. If you have one, what do you do? Keep quiet and suffer? Walk out? Or show hostile behavior too? Sometimes your silent reaction can prick his conscience, but not for long. And avoiding him will not correct his deficiencies.

Strategies

If you choose to stay in the company, you have to be able to deal with your "problem boss." To handle him, start by asking yourself what your goal is in your relationship. What strategy will you use to achieve your goal but, at the same time, preserve both your and his dignity and self-respect?

Dealing with a problem boss requires emotional competencies or EQ (emotional intelligence) skills such as: giving an "I-message" negative feedback, empathic listening skills to show you can sense his feelings and deeper needs, win-win negotiation skills and conflict resolution skills. The last two topics have been covered in my earlier articles in past issues of People at Work in this paper.

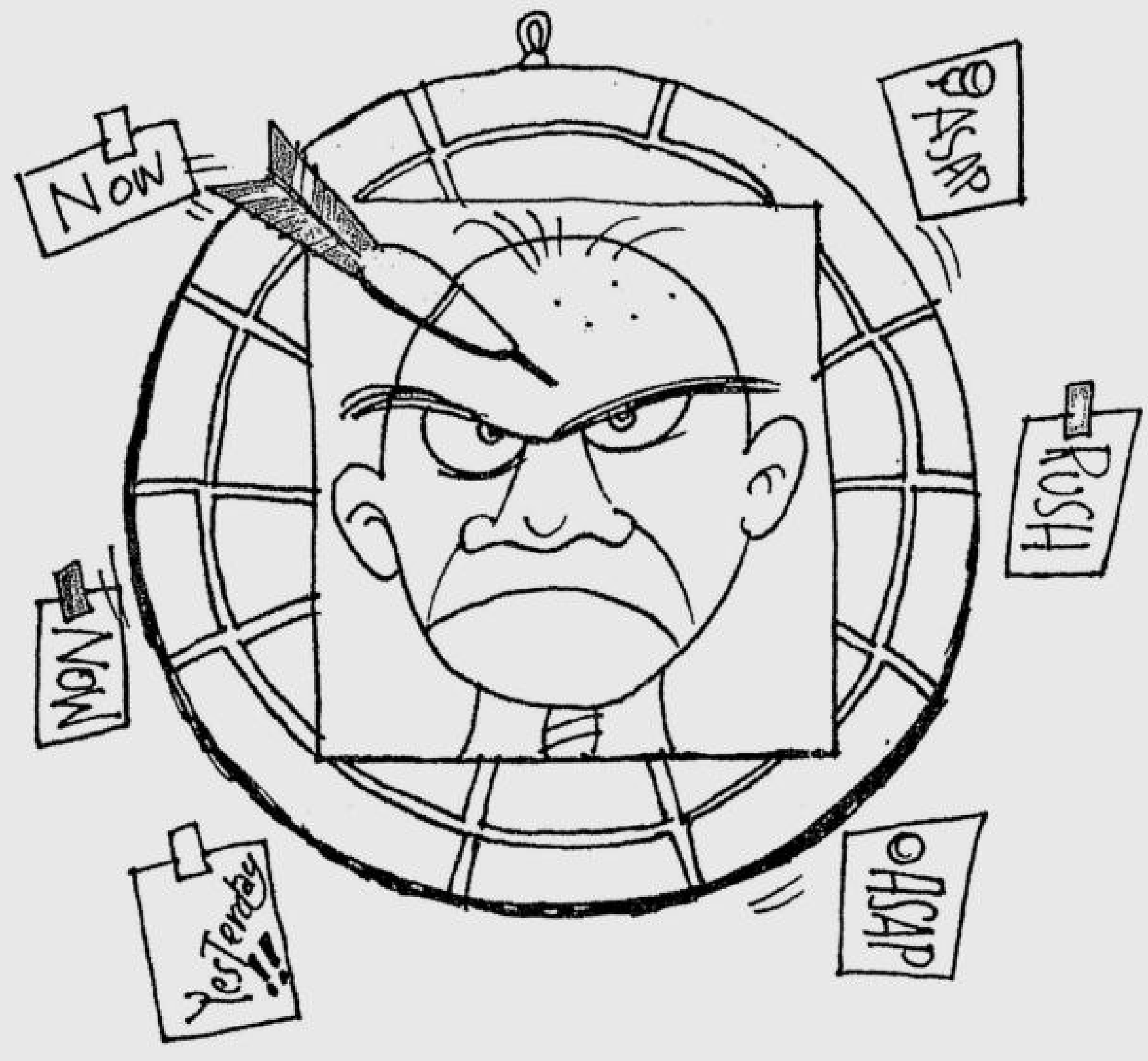

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Effective feedback

One effective strategy is using the "I-message" negative feedback which is a behavioral, non-judgmental way of letting your boss know upfront what he needs to improve on. The "I-message" technique is composed of the following DESC steps:

Describe the situation and your boss' behavior in that situation.

Express how you felt in that situation.

Specify how you would have wanted him to do/say.

Consequence - Point out the positive consequence to you and to him if he would do as you specified.

Below is an application of these steps:

D: Yesterday, after I informed you of my decision not to give the additional 10% discount to XYZ Company, you called Mr. Santos directly and reversed my decision without informing me. The impact of this is that I will lose credibility to our client, and he would prefer instead to deal directly with you.

E: I felt embarrassed and even humiliated. It also made me feel undercut and not trusted by you.

S: I wish you would tell me first what you plan to do and allow me to go back to the client and make the change myself.

C: If you do this, our client will trust me and will continue to deal with me, and this will mean less work for you.

Role play

In giving this message, write it down first and role play it so you will be quite calm and relaxed when you deliver it. Choose his best time of day to deliver your message and in the privacy of his office. Ask for an appointment.

Have the paper on which you have written your DESC in front of you so you are able to follow the sequence and do not forgot all the four parts.

Then, listen to your boss' response. Most likely he will be defensive, even angry. Leave it at that. You may not always win, but you will have earned his respect and enhanced your credibility. Who knows, he may even admire you for your professionalism.

Last resort

If, after using your EQ skills, you cannot really "stomach" your "problem boss," then tell him you would like to seek a lateral transfer to another unit to broaden your perspective and learn related skills. Or leave the organization. One thing you must never do is to badmouth your boss

To summarize, support, not antagonize, your boss so that he will be as effective as he needs to be. Advance his interests and goals along with your own. Your success and professional growth should benefit your boss as well. You can succeed if and only if you help your boss succeed. Remember, you may be a boss yourself someday. Then, you will know how it feels and how you need your subordinates to help you succeed.

(Ms. Santamaria is president of Career Systems, Inc., one of the leading career development consultancy firms in the country. Email feedback to carsys@qinet.net.)

ASK YOUR CEO

"Ask your CEO column will resume next week"

How do you hire the best people?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: For the first time we're having a hard time finding excellent employees. Is this par for the course today or are we doing something wrong?

Hiring Blanks

Hitting a hole in one is a challenge. Just ask Todd Obuchowski. He was on the 116 yard, par three, fourth hole in Lawrenceville, Massachusetts when he hit a long drive. A really long drive. It went over the green, onto a highway, ricocheted off the passenger side of a car, bounced back to the green, and rolled into the cup for a hole in one. Hard to believe? Nancy Bachan has a divot in her car to back up his story.

So what does that have to do with hiring? Everything. If you want to hit "a hole in one" next time you hire an employee, you, too, should be prepared to bounce around-because in today's tight labor market, the route to great employees is nowhere near as straight and simple as it used to be. Here are some questions to help you recruit the best in today's challenging hiring environment. For more advice, check out "Hiring Smart" by Pierre Mornell (10 Speed, 1999).

Do you start the hiring process by thinking about the last person you fired? Reflecting on the pain, hassle and cost of firing someone will remind you how important it is to hire right the first time. It will motivate you to put in the time and effort the task deserves.

Do you search as broadly as you should? Remember the days when all it took to fill a position was a call to your local classifieds listings? No more.

Today's successful companies plaster web sites with "help wanted" ads, look worldwide for candidates, even hire employees with no training in their industry if those individuals have the personality traits they need. Don't handicap your effort by keeping your search too narrow.

Do you get everyone involved in the search process? Several Silicon Valley firms have begun to offer prizes to employees who lead them to talented new recruits. So should you! Hiring is too important to leave to Personnel. Get ALL your personnel involved.

Do you make personal calls to the candidates you want to meet with? Phone calls, remember them? That's how we used to communicate before email. Revert to tradition. A short phone call can give you a feel for them and their interest in working with you. Sure, some people don't come across on the phone, but what you learn about the rest can spare you lots of hassle later.

Do you give them an interview assignment? Keep it simple, but ask potential hires to visit a store, plant, campus, office or web site before their interviews. Tell them you're interested in hearing their observations. You'll get a sense of how they do with follow-through. Plus, you'll benefit from their outsider's view.

Try these tips, because unless you score talented employees, it will be tough for you to even hit the green.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: If you were hiring someone, which would carry the most weight?

—References, 3.9%
—Expertise, 23.8%
—Attitude, 72.2%

(Mr. Rosner is the author of bestsellers "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com & RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

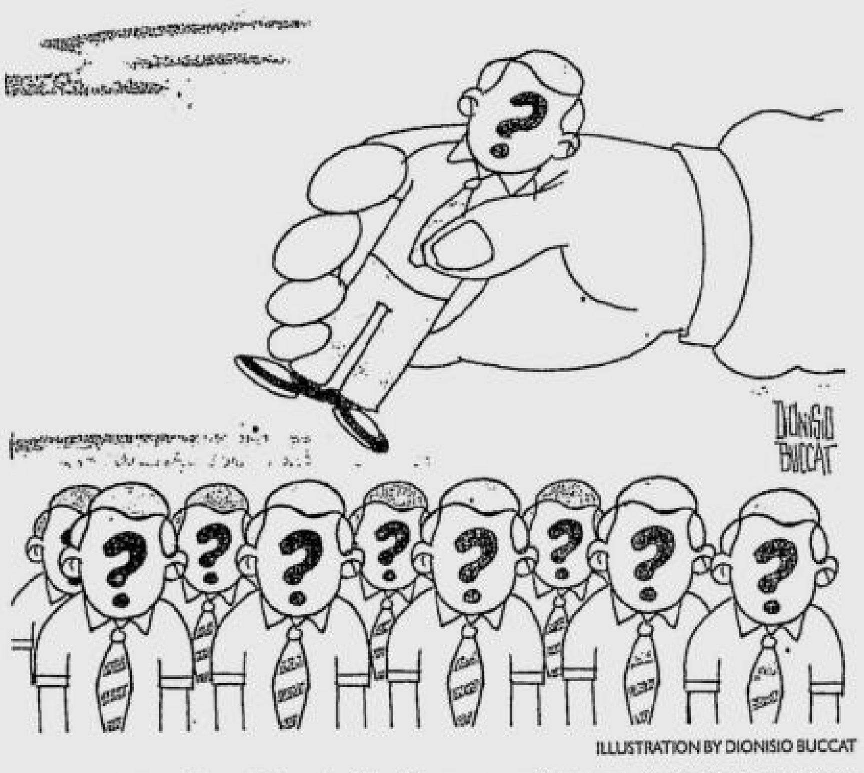

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

A classy work-life balance performance

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

WE could have danced all night. So was the mood at Learn In Concert, a work-life balance event conceptualized and organized by the Personnel Managers Association of the Philippines (PMAP). Over 500 work-life balance advocates walked the talk, or better yet, danced and sang the talk at On Stage Greenbelt. Metro Working Mom was there as co-presentor and as pioneering advocate of work-life balance.

Integration

Led by Gerry Plana (Executive Trainer and Human Resource Management Expert) and Ric Abadesco (Organizational Development Expert and Management Consultant), the concert drove home the message that people at work today are craving for the kind of work and family situation that recognizes the person as a whole and seeks to integrate family and personal concerns with work realities to improve our performance in both. And it did this through a mix of talks, songs, and yes, dancing. What better way to show balance, Plana explained, than to take on the movements of a dancer, swaying, jumping, and grooving while staying grounded. He himself led the audience in a hip hop number, taking us through the steps, and releasing the spirit of fun that is so intrinsic to striking a balance.

There was also singing. Plana stirred emotions in the crowd as he sang the poignant "Sunrise, Sunset" of Fiddler On The Roof-prodding the audience to savor precious moments with our families because indeed "swiftly flow the years." Abadesco lifted his gentle tenor to the tune of "Born Free"-implying that setting our priorities and making the commitment to balance is ultimately liberating. If not for anything else, the courage of these two practitioners to shed their stiff suits and explore their talents inspired many in the audience to try to break out of their own stress traps and live fuller lives.

Learning

Packaged between the musical numbers there was much learning. Plana explained the tug and pull of work, family life, and pursuing our dreams. He asked: do you sometimes feel that there is something missing in your life? Do you find that you have all the things to make you happy, and yet you are not? Is there something you've always longed to do, but have not found the courage to do? Do you feel that you can contribute more than you do? These are signs that there is tension between your work and your personal life and because the priorities compete with each other a gain in one area means a loss in the other.

Abadesco made concrete the commitment to balance by taking the audience through ten steps to managing the juggling act. He emphasized that the change begins with ourselves. We don't have to wait for the companies we work for take the initiative, we can make small concrete changes right here, right now. Some of his tips are in this month's issue of Metro Working Mom (with Heart Evangelista and her mom Cecile Ongpauco on the cover).

MWM seminars

PMAP promises that this is just a first in a series of concerts that will rally support for individuals and companies. In fact, Metro Working Mom is working hand in hand with PMAP and other work-life advocates. In cooperation with Citibank, we're bringing our powerful seminars to offices through the Gateway to Good Life series. If you'd like us to come to your office, call 924-4101 local 4644. We're also joining People at Work as we take the work-life balance message to Legazpi City, Albay in November. We believe striking upon a good balance is the secret to being an effective working mom.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of Metro Working Mom. Email feedback An_Alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com)

Former news anchor becomes office manager in US

By Ysabel San Pedro-Schuld

WHEN Evelyn Katigbak-Estibar arrived in the US in 1990, her American dream was to become part of the broadcast industry in Portland, Oregon, having been a news anchor in the Philippines. But Estibar found out that achieving her dream in America was not easy. "I was blown away at first. I never imagined that it would be tough to enter the broadcast industry here in America. I did not know that the broadcast media industry in Portland is a tough market compared to other cities in the US, such as Daly City or Seattle. I studied at National Broadcasting School in Portland, then applied at KPTV12 local television station. But I did not get the job."

Rising from the ranks

But her efforts were not for naught. Estibar was referred by the KPTV12 HR Director to the Blazers. The Blazers own the Rose Garden Arena, a huge stadium and complex famous for featuring high octane sports events and musical concerts of the likes of Justin Timberlake and Christina Aguilera.

Estibar got hired as a receptionist and rose up the ranks in two years to become office manager of the Blazers and Rose Quarter. Now, she runs the front desk operations and manages the administration budget. "We own the Blazers team and manage events at the Rose Garden.We are in the entertainment industry."

Although she did not get the broadcasting job in the local TV Station, Estibar says, "I have no regrets, I know that my accent and the fact that I was not a homegrown graduate were my downsides for making the grade. It is tough out here, with a very small market for this profession."

CAREER TALES

Fil-Am association

Right now, she is happy being the president of the Filipino-American Association of Clark County. She got involved in this association because of her husband, Sam, who she met in 1990. She met Sam Estibar, a Filipino professional who works as engineer in Tektronik, at the Dynasty Club in Beaverton, the watering hole of the Filipino Americans. Sam and Evelyn have two children, Tracy who is 15 and Nicholas who just turned 8.

She recounts, "I started as the PRO/writer of the Fil-Am Association of Clark County Newsletter. I owe it to Sam who is very active in this organization. He did me a great favor and introduced me to the Clark County residents. Clark County covers the Vancouver area in Washington. That is where we first resided. Now, I live in Gresham, suburb of Portland. I became president from 2003 to 2004 and it is an honor and pleasure to serve this community."

The association has many projects, one of which is the Annual Seafarer's Festival where the Philippines will be represented with Fil-Am Clark County dancers dancing Tinikling, Kuratsa and Sayaw sa Bangko along with other ethnic dancers from Thailand, Vietnam, Africa and other countries. Another project is the concert of pop Filipina diva, Vina Morales back-to-back with comedian actor, Randy Santiago, at the New Hope Community Church in Portland.

Media background

While she is enjoying her success in the US, she fondly recalls her experiences in the Philippines where she worked with now well-known media personalities like Ces Drilon, Korina Sanchez, and Dyan Castillejo. She narrates, "I used to work as news anchor for Balita Ala Una with PTV 4. I also moonlighted as sales executive for the weekly sports show, 'Sports Inside Out,' hosted by Dyan Castillejo and the late Joe Cantada of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA)."

Estibar was born on Sept 10, 1966 in Rosario, Batangas to Emilio and Emilia Katigbak. The oldest girl and second of the seven siblings, she was a consistent "A" student in school. She graduated in 1986 with a degree in Mass Communications and Broadcast Journalism at the Far Eastern University along Morayta Ave. in Manila.

Attitude

Her advice to Pinoys wanting to succeed in the US: "You have to have the right attitude." Her philosophy is "Attitude is everything. We make our own destiny. It is the product of our own conscious choice. We are responsible for our actions. Do not quit and always have a Plan B in the works, we will be okay in the long haul." She adds, "*Dapat magtiyaga*, this is America, we have to stay focused. Maraming kompetisyon but for me it is a challenge to be heard and to be able to do something for yourself and for others."

(Ms. Schuld worked as a business reporter of the Business Star in 1989 and was a foreign correspondent for Asia Technology Magazine in Hong Kong.

She is now living in Portland, Oregon and married to an American.)

EVELYN Katigbak-Estibar

40 ways to be more creative at work

By Karen Liquete

1. Spruce up your cubicle with inspirational pictures or messages from friends.
2. Place the following things on your table to promote greater creativity: freshly sharpened pencils, good stationary, mints, and assorted candies.
3. Listen to different kinds of music. From Bach to Barry White, broaden your musical interests and awareness.
4. Watch a movie with your officemates after work.
5. Attend mass or a spiritual service with your officemates.
6. Listen to educational audiotapes.
7. Snap pictures of friends using your camera or your cell phone's camera.
8. Get a free makeover from your officemates. Get a make-up or makeover for the girls. Get a wardrobe overhaul for the guys.
9. Organize an office beautification project for your local park, street or highway.
10. Put together the pieces of a giant jigsaw puzzle. Hang it on your office wall.
11. Do crafts during your lull times at the office: crocheting, sewing and sketching. This could even turn out to be a sideline.
12. Wrap colorful cloth coverings on your office chair. Put a mini-pillow on your back if you like.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

13. Place potpourri sachets on your drawers to keep them smelling fresh.
14. Use your skills in calligraphy to design the perfect birthday card for an officemate.
15. Invite a speaker to talk about special interest topics in your office: corporate dressing, speaking in public, etc.
16. Write poetry during your free time.
17. Start a gratitude journal. Write down all the blessings you receive at work everyday.
18. Volunteer for a community project. Visit a nursery school, orphanage near your place of work.
19. Bring a guitar to work and sing with your officemates. If the others can bring other instruments, practice after work. Who knows? You might even form a band.
20. Download the latest tunes from your player. Swap sound files with officemates.
21. Meet up for lunch with a variety of people who belong to your industry just to swap stories.
22. Enroll yourself in a physical fitness class with coworkers. Work out together.
23. Write an article for your company's corporate newsletter. Be as creative as you can.
24. Go on a company outing.
25. Connect with former officemates and employers through phone calls. You never know if there's a better job opportunity in the wings.
26. Have a paper-recycling project inside the office.
27. Create a small altar in your office for your personal prayer or meditation.
28. Send thank you notes to people in the office.
29. Support a co-worker's desire to be more creative.
30. Take a short nap instead of going out for lunch.
31. Visit an art gallery or museum during lunch.
32. Swap clothes with officemates instead of buying new ones.
33. Send email notes to your co-workers and thank them for all the good things they've done to enrich your life.
34. Make a contribution to a cause you believe in and ask officemates to chip in.
35. Be hospitable at work.
36. Share your baon with friends.
37. Volunteer to help a newcomer at work.
38. Keep a dream journal.
39. Gaze up at the clouds at the end of the day.
40. Rejoice in the good fortune of someone else. Express your happiness with a call or a note.

(Ms Liquete is senior advertising copywriter of Foote, Cone & Belding Worldwide.)

Singapore's jobless rate climbs anew

SINGAPORE-Singapore's unemployed and new graduates face a bleak future looking for work as another 20,000 are expected to join the jobless queues this year in the wake of the sharpest ever slump in GDP in the June quarter.

Like many new graduates, Aaron Chong expects to be out of work soon. Chong, 25, trained as a journalist, but is now employed part-time handling public relations for a hospital. "You tend to lower your expectations for salaries and job satisfaction. You no longer have the idea of an ideal job," said Chong.

He said only 20 to 30 percent of his classmates are in permanent jobs and he feels his chances are increasingly remote. "Graduates are taking it easy, going on holidays first. They are under the impression that they're not going to get a job anyway," he said.

Singapore's jobless rate is forecast by the government to climb past 5.5 percent this year from 4.5 percent in March as more companies downsize and others relocate to cheaper locations.

A one percent increase in the jobless rate would increase the number out of work by around 20,000 to around 110,000, or about one out of every 18 people in a total workforce of around two million.

The export-dependent Singapore economy is stumbling out of its steepest quarterly decline ever as businesses from restaurants to transport companies reel from the effects of the flu-like SARS outbreak and the Iraq war.

In the clearest picture yet of the damage, data showed gross domestic product shrank at an annualized rate of 11.8 percent in the April-June quarter, the worst on record.

Economists expect that wage cuts, often used to dig the economy out of trouble without major job losses, would do little to save jobs and that the jobless rate would worsen in the coming quarters.

In May, the government approved proposals by the National Wages Council to cut wages at firms directly-hit by the SARS outbreak and freeze salaries at all other companies.

"The job market is unlikely to see any improvement in the second half as it will take time for excess capacity in the economy to bleed out," said Lee Wee Liat, economist at DBS Bank. Lee said the wage cuts will not prevent all job losses, but they will help to retain some jobs.

"Improvement is not possible until the economy stabilizes. The creation of jobs will come about three to four quarters after the economy improves, which will be sometime in the first half (of 2004) at the earliest," Lee said, forecasting a jobless rate of around 5.2 percent in the second half of this year.

Song Seng Wun, economist at brokerage GK Goh, said that most private companies have already cut jobs following the Asian financial crisis and that government-linked companies were catching up. Song said by the end of June this year, the unemployment rate would have approached 5.0 percent.

"You are looking at more graduates joining the labor force and businesses are still trimming. The swelling of the ranks of the unemployed is likely to continue to climb," Song added.

State-controlled Singapore Airlines cut 414 jobs in early June or 1.5 percent of its 29,000-strong payroll. Its 1,600 pilots agreed to a 16.5 percent wage cut, but industry sources said the wage deal was unlikely to prevent further job losses.

PSA Corp, the state-owned container port, announced in February it would cut 800 jobs or 14 percent of its workforce.

At the El Patio Mexican restaurant in the area of Singapore normally bustling with expatriates, turnover has revived from the depths of SARS, but its manager says fewer people are eating out because of economic uncertainty.

Hussini, who was retrenched herself not long ago, typifies how most workers and companies operate these days. "I'm a manager in this restaurant but I'm also cleaner, accountant and I help in the kitchen," she said. *Reuters*

People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Touch Mobile sizzles in Albay

EVEN the hot chilis that spice the famed Bicolano cuisine failed to match the heat generated by Touch Mobile when it recently served up a sizzling line-up of activities to celebrate Albay's Magayon Festival.

Despite the heavy downpour that showered the festival's culminating activities May 31, an estimated crowd of 40,000 Bicolanos showed up at the Penaranda Park to watch Touch Mobile's grand show, a major highlight of the month-long festival.

Earlier that day, the Touch Mobile group led by Joyce Capacillo, head of acquisition, toured four popular radio stations in Legaspi City whose station managers and deejays are mostly avowed Touch Mobile subscribers.

The press conference held at the La Roca Garden was similarly jampacked with Albay media who warmly welcomed the group, this time joined by Touch Mobile's celebrity endorsers Aga and Charlene Muhlach.

The Bicolanos screamed with delight at every public appearance made by the superstar couple, first at the formal opening of Touch Mobile's month-long sales blitz at the Pacific Mall and at the autograph-signing session where they were joined by other celebrities such as TV host Arnel Ignacio and popular actors Onemig Bondoc, Paolo Contis and Keempee de Leon.

Later that day, all celebrity guests joined Touch Mobile's festival parade that featured a brass band, Magayon street dancing, mardi gras, carnival jesters, acrobats, jugglers, and fire eaters, and celebrity float parade.

The day-long event was capped by Touch Mobile's grand show at the Penaranda Park, which, by then, had been transformed into a sea of people. Children watched the show from the roofs of vans and jeepneys, unmindful of the heavy rains they had to brave to catch a glimpse of their favorite stars.

Consistent with its family-centric brand character , Touch Mobile certainly wowed the audience, composed mostly of families from Legaspi City and its neighboring towns, with superb performances dished out by its celebrity guests.

Albay Governor Al Francis Bicharra joined the stars for the grand finale, leading the crowd in clamoring for Touch Mobile's return in the near future.

"I am grateful to Touch Mobile for helping make the Magayon Festival bigger and successful. Albay hopes it has reciprocated Touch Mobile's contributions to the festival by being able to generate new subscribers from this province," Bicharra said.

And Bicolanos could only agree, wishing the show would go on even as the rains receded.

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SEARCH FOR 6TH APJ-BLA ON

Five years ago, a unique search for business leaders, who are not just successful businessmen but who are also dedicated Filipinos who sincerely want to contribute to the good of their country, was launched. Called the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Business Leadership Awards (APJ-BLA), the search was inspired by Aurelio Periquet Jr., who served as president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) for five consecutive terms. Organized by the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation and Manila Jaycees Inc., in cooperation with the PCCI and Metrobank Foundation, the search has awarded 10 individuals for their business acumen and their civic-mindedness. Every year, one senior business leader (Pillar awardee) and one junior business achiever (Pearl awardee) are chosen in a 5-month search. The search committee is now accepting nominations. Deadline for submission of nominations is Aug. 15. For more details, call 810-9652, 894-4774, 525-2631 or 525-6792. Shown at the launching in May is Anna Marie Periquet (center), daughter of the late Dr. Aurelio Periquet Jr., signing the MOA with (from left) PCCI chair Emeritus Dr. Alberto Fenix Jr. and PCCI president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., as co-presenters of the 6th APJ-BLA, Manila Jaycees president Arthur Panganiban and Manila Jaycees director Pablo Carlos III, as organizers.

Family Circle service launched

CONSISTENT with its family-centric brand character, Touch Mobile-the country's fastest-growing GSM brand-recently launched a new service that makes connectivity among Filipino families more affordable.

Called Family Circle, this new service provides Touch Mobile's current and new subscribers with discounts on cell phone-to-cell phone rates to five frequently called Touch Mobile numbers, from P6.50 to P5.50 per minute starting July 5.

The first of its kind in the mobile industry, this new service is in line with Touch Mobile's thrust of keeping families in touch at all times anywhere through their mobile phones.

Through the Family Circle service, a subscriber can talk to his loved ones not only on special occasions but also for everyday conversation without spending too much.

To avail themselves of this service, existing and potential new Touch Mobile subscribers only need to dial 8170 using their cellular phones and follow the voice prompts to register their five frequently called Touch Mobile numbers.

A subscriber with none or less than five Family Circle registrations will be presented with the Registration Menu, which will allow him to register a maximum of five frequently called Touch Mobile numbers free of charge.

After registration, the subscriber will automatically receive a message from Touch Mobile confirming the activation of the numbers he has registered.

If a subscriber already has five Family Circle registered numbers, he will hear the Modification and Status Checking menu upon dialing 8170, which will allow him to either change his existing Family Circle numbers or just check which numbers he has registered.

The Family Circle service is actually the same service as Fave Rates with number 8170 burnt in the Touch Mobile SIM card.

Any change or replacement done by the subscriber after the first five registered numbers will be subject to a modification fee of P10 per mobile number.

With its proven nationwide coverage, clarity of calls, speed in sending text messages, and quick connections, Touch Mobile has become the GSM brand preferred by Filipino families.

Oasis of Love
Catholic Life Spirit Seminar
Welcome

THE CHALLENGE...AT THE EASTRIDGE

The Oasis of Love Invitational Golf Cup Tournament will be held today, July 30 at 7 a.m. at the Eastridge Golf Club in Binangonan, Rizal. Organized by EVENTually Inc., the tournament will be attended by celebrities and avid golf aficionados. Shown is Sis Nita Trofeo, Roda Yoyah Quizan, EVENTually Inc. managing director, Fr. Arlo Yap, Oasis of Love spiritual director, actor Christopher de Leon, Oasis of Love head servant, actor Rez Cortes, Oasis of Love Foundation president, Pamela Puen, EVENTually Inc. VP for promotions, Bro. Adrian Panganiban, Sis Lita Lopez and Bro. Marjun Villacorta.

CCAT AT CANADA NATIONAL DAY

Dr. Angel C. Manlapaz DMD, president of Career Center & Training (CCAT), was one of the guests during the celebration of Canada National Day held at RCBC Plaza July 1. Manlapaz was recently inducted as an associate (honorary) member of the Canadian Alumni Association of the Philippines (CAAPHIL), which is spearheading the establishment of a Phil-Canadian Centre. CCAT has earned recognition for its excellent caregiver training program for the benefit of countries like Canada where professional caregivers are highly in demand and Filipinos have earned such reputation. Manlapaz (left) is shown with Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette (center), CAAPHIL president Carmen Dichoso (2nd from left), Pam Apsay, a student from Canada, and Cristina Abesamis, wife of lawyer Bayani Abesamis, Canadian immigration consultant.

Nicklaus joins PDMAEC 2003

ONE OF the leading supplier of quality and affordable machine tools and machineries in the country is joining the Philippines' Machine tools exhibition called Philippine Die & Mold Association Exhibition and Conference 2003 (PDMAEC 2003)-the 1st Die & Mold, Machine Tools, Equipment, Accessories and other related Products and Services Exhibition and Conference which will be held from Aug. 28 to 31 at Philippine Trade Training Center.

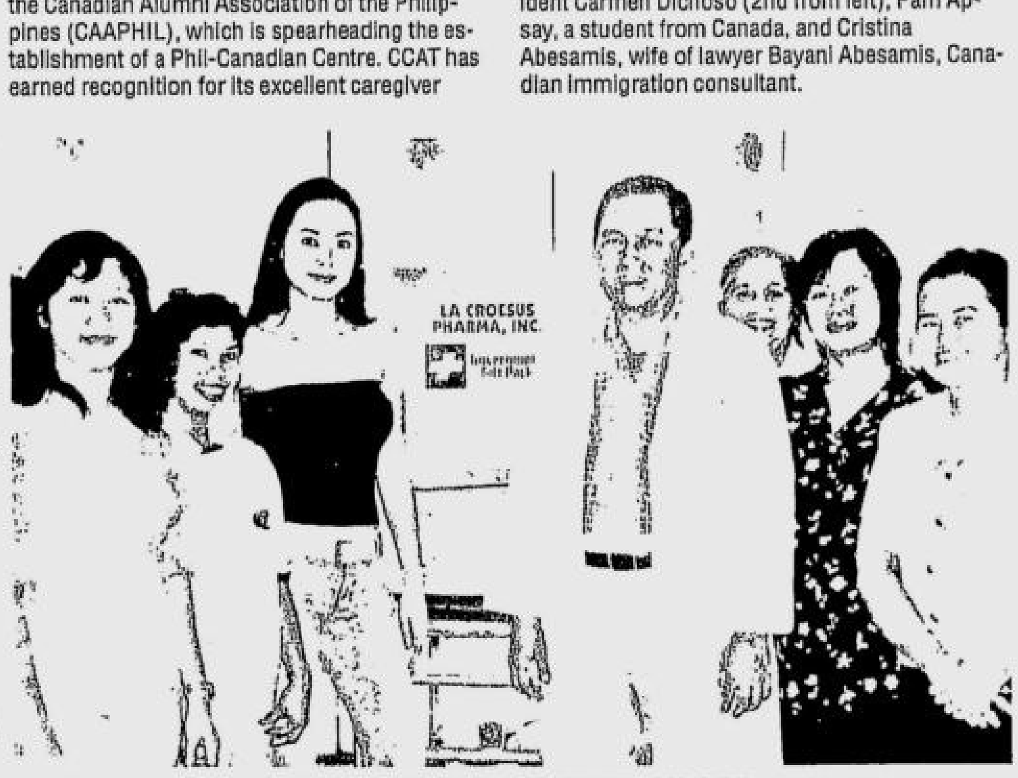
Nicklaus Machinery Corp. is involved in the distribution, sales, and service of machine tools, metrology instruments, sheet metal fabricating equipment, industrial machinery, and turnkey projects. It was established in 1995, and its aim is to be able to provide clients with technically updated equipment to meet their industrial requirements, coupled with the most personalized service in this industry.

The company is also known as an importer and distributor of automotive parts in the Philippines for the past 12 years. In September 1992, Nicklaus ventured into the manufacturing of spare parts and auto components. In 1995, it branched out into the importation and distribution of machinery and tools to supply the local industries. Presently, it has specifically trained its personnel to cope up with the changing times-and at the same time still give clients the personalized service they truly deserve.

At PDMAEC 2003, Nicklaus Machinery Corp. is expected to showcase and demonstrate its new technology not yet seen in the Philippine market.

Among the exhibitors are Aichi Forging, Associated Swedish Steels Philippines Inc., Automation Security Inc., Avadon International Corp., Bon Industrial Supply, Cadtech Systems Corp., Colt Commercial, Edman Machtools, Gaylan Technologies, ME Industrial Machinery, Maedan Enterprises, Penta Technological Products Inc., RMC Equipment Philippines Inc. and more.

For more information about PDMAEC 2003, call the show management company MAI (Market Access Innovations) Management Philippines at 898-2198 or 890-1087 and look for Angie Barrios or Lady Galura.


LA CROESUS PHARMA, INC.

BEVON-C NATIONWIDE HOSPITAL TOUR KICKS OFF

In its goal to support the government's drive against SARS and to increase awareness to prevent the spread of the deadly virus, La Croesus Pharma Inc. kicked off its nationwide government hospital campaign tour, conducting an audio-visual presentation and by giving free samples of Bevon-C to the medical group and general public. Bevon-C is now available in all Mercury drugstores nationwide. Shown are Rochelle Romero (nee Rochelle Ong, 3rd from left), former Mutya ng Pilipinas-Asia Pacific, the official spokesperson and endorser of Bevon-C, Dr. Camilo Te of the National Orthopedic Center, NOC budget head Corazon Hiñola, and NOC director's office staff.

The Heritage Park receives award

THE HERITAGE Park was recently honored as the Most Outstanding Memorial Park, a premier tribute conferred jointly by the Parangal sa Pamilyang Pilipino Foundation and by the Organization for Peace and Progressive Oriented Inc. (Oppo).

Besting other memorial parks in the country, the award was given to The Heritage Park for its firm commitment to provide quality service to its clientele. Moreover, The Heritage Park satisfied the major standards set for the award, and these were quality of products or services, contribution to public service and safety, and general public opinion based on consumer satisfaction.

Defense Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, Secretary for Housing and Urban Development Mike Defensor, Secretary for Media and Ecclesiastical Affairs Dodie Limcauco Jr. and Councilor Dante de Guzman as well as other noted personalities graced the awarding ceremony.

"This is a most welcome recognition for us," says Heritage Park operations vice president Emir Tubayan. "We feel honored and pleased that the consumers have shown their appreciation for what we have been doing, and that is to constantly provide them with services that adequately meet their needs. This award definitely spurs us to do even better in the years to come.

Oppo was incorporated in the early '90s by a group of civic-minded professionals, businessmen, and young people who were driven by a common advocacy of giving recognition to people worthy of emulation. Aside from this advocacy, Oppo aims to give recognition to companies, agencies and institutions whose products and services improved the lives of Filipinos.

The Heritage Park features first-rate amenities spread out over 76 hectares of manicured greens and breathtaking sceneries. Located at the heart of Fort Bonifacio, The Heritage Park is accessible from Quezon City, Makati and the South via C-5 and Edsa. It is five minutes away from the Manila Polo Club, the Manila Golf Club and Forbes Park.

For details on The Heritage Park, call 845-2341, 845-2342, and 845-2334 to 38 locals 109/112, or e-mail sales@heritagepark.com.ph.

McDonald's Forbes Town Center opens

FAST food giant McDonald's is set to open its newest branch this July at the Forbes Town Center, an up-and-coming residential and commercial hub at the Crescent Park West in Bonifacio City. The outlet, McDonald's first at the Global City, will anchor the dining and leisure strip of Forbes Town Center. This strip will feature the trendiest restaurants, shops and theme bars in the metropolis, similar to Bugis Junction in Singapore. Forbes Town Center is also home to Forbeswood Heights, a six-tower luxury residential enclave of property giant Megaworld Corp and Bonifacio West Development Corp. The first three towers of Forbeswood Heights-Agoho, Bauhinia and Cambridge-were sold out in just a year after their launching. The fourth tower, the 18-story Dorchester, is now on sale.

ProductFILES

Your ticket to great rewards

Congratulations!

WHEN travel, relaxation and recreation come a-calling, there is only one landline phone service you want to be on your side: Globelines.

Globelines-the landline telephone service of Globe Telecom-is giving its loyal post-paid residential subscribers in Luzon a big lifestyle treat with the introduction of its Globelines Privilege Plus program.

At no additional cost to its subscribers, Globelines, through its Globelines Privilege Plus program, has mailed our Globelines Privilege Plus packs to its Luzon-based residential subscribers. Each pack contains an assortment of privilege-packed coupons which Globelines subscribers can avail themselves of in selected major establishments.

The perks available through the Globelines Privilege Plus coupons are good for discounts of up to 50 percent, while for other partner-establishments, these are exchangeable for special offers or services.

Globelines Privilege Plus is a continuing program so Globelines subscribers can expect more to come after this initial set of offerings. Globelines' Visayas and Mindanao subscribers should also look forward to Globelines Privilege Plus-VisMin Edition, which would be coming out soon.

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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	6 BAD BOYS II			
	7 DARK WATER			

For sreening times; call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

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2	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	TOMB RAIDER-2
5	WILD BUTTERFLY

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www.clickthecity.com.ph

(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	"BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
2	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4	BULLET PROOF MONK
5	BAD BOYS-2
6	TOMB RAIDER-2

star

www.clickthecity.com.ph

(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

BAD BOYS-2

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TERMINATOR - 3
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	TOMB RAIDER-2
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1	BAD BOYS-2
4	WILD BUTTERFLY
5	TOMB RAIDER-2
6	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
7	TOMB RAIDER-2
8	BAD BOYS-2
9	BULLET PROOF MONK

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2	TERMINATOR-3
3	TOMB RAIDER-2
4	BAD BOYS-2
5	BULLET PROOF MONK
6	BAD BOYS-2
7	TOMB RAIDER-2
8	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
9	WILD BUTTERFLY

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1	TOMB RAIDER-2
2	BULLET PROOF MONK
3	BAD BOYS-2
4	BAD BOYS-2
5	TOMB RAIDER-2

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.0795

1	TOMB RAIDER-2
2	TERMINATOR-3
3	BAD BOYS-2
4	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
5	BAD BOYS-2

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	TOMB RAIDER-2

Sampaquita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	RESERVE

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
Lords	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETMALL Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	TOMB RAIDER-2
3	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	TOMB RADER-2
3	RESERVE
4	BULLET PROOF MONK
5	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 , 879.2029

1	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2	TOMB RADER-2

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta

ALIMALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242 8400

1	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2	TOMB RADER-2
3	BULLET PROOF MONK
4	BAD BOYS-2
5	BAD BOYS-2
6	TERMINATOR-3
7	TOMB RADER-2

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242 8400

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna)

TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	BULLET PROOF MONK
2	BAD BOYS-2
3	TOMB RADER-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BULLET PROOF MONK
2	TOMB RADER
3	BAD BOYS
4	BANGKOK HAUNTED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	BULLET PROOF MONK
2	BAD BOYS-2
3	TOMB RADER-2
4	BANGKOK HAUNTED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	
2	TERMINATOR-3
3	TOMB RADER-2
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	DOWN WITH LOVE
2	IMPOSTOR
3	TERMINATOR-3
4	TOMB RAIDER-2

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	TOMB RAIDER-2
2	TERMINATOR-3
3	MASAMANG UGAT

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
3	WILD BUTTERFLY
4	TOMB RAIDER-2

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	
3	TOMB RAIDER-2
4	WILD BUTTERFLY
5	BANGKOK HAUNTED

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	TOMB RAIDER-2
2	BAD BOYS-2
3	

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	TOMB RAIDER-2
2	BULLET PROOF MONK
3	BAD BOYS-2

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2	MASAMANG UGAT
3	TOMB RAIDER-2
4	TERMINATOR-3

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MASAMANG UGAT
2	TERMINATOR-3
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MASAMANG UGAT
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3	TOMB RAIDER-2
4	TERMINATOR-3

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	TOMB RAIDER-2
4	BAD BOYS-2

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	BAD BOYS-2
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	BAD BOYS-2
4	TOMB RAIDER-2

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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

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SM CITY BACOOR

4173888

1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3	BAD BOYS 2
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6	BULLETPROOF MONK
7	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
8	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	BULLETPROOF MONK
3	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
5	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
7	IMPOSTOR
8	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
9	TERMINATOR 3
10	WILD BUTTERFLY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	BAD BOYS 2
5	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6	BULLETPROOF MONK
7	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8	TERMINATOR 3
9	BANGKOK HAUNTED
10	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
11	MASAMANG UGAT
12	BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	BULLETPROOF MONK
3	BANGKOK HAUNTED
4	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
8	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
9	DARK WATER
10	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
11	DOWN WITH LOVE
12	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3	BAD BOYS 2
4	TERMINATOR 3
5	DARK WATER
6	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7	BANGKOK HAUNTED
8	DOWN WITH LOVE
9	BULLETPROOF MONK
10	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
12	LIZZIE MCGUIRE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	DARK WATER
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
4	BULLETPROOF MONK
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8	BAD BOYS 2

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1	DARK WATER
2	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4	BULLETPROOF MONK
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	BAD BOYS 2
9	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
10	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	BAD BOYS 2
3	DOWN WITH LOVE
4	BULLETPROOF MONK
5	DEATH WATCH
6	MASAMANG UGAT
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	IMPOSTOR
2	RESERVED
3	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4	DOWN WITH LOVE
5	BAD BOYS 2
6	JACKASS THE MOVIE
7	RESERVED
8	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3	BULLETPROOF MONK
4	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
5	DOWN WITH LOVE
6	BAD BOYS 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3	BULLETPROOF MONK
4	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
3	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4	BULLETPROOF MONK

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	BAD BOYS 2
3	BULLETPROOF MONK
4	DOWN WITH LOVE
5	JACKASS THE MOVIE
6	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2	BAD BOYS 2
3	BULLETPROOF MONK
4	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	MUNTING TINIG
3	DEATH WATCH
4	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

THE PODIUM CINEMA

633-0976

TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
12:15 FS/12:45 MF/3:10/
9:55 LFS/10:25 LMF/12:20 END

TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11:05 MF/1:20/3:45/6:10/8:35/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

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3	TOMB RAIDER 2
4	TOMB RAIDER 2
5	BULLET PROOF MONK
6	TOMB RAIDER 2
7	TERMINATOR 3
8	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
9	DARK WATER
10	DOUBLE VISION

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1	BAD BOYS 2 - 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
2	TOMB RAIDER 2
3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
4	DARK WATER
5	TOMB RAIDER 2
6	BULLET PROOF MONK
7	TOMB RAIDER 2

Metro East

Marcos Hway

1	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2	BAD BOYS 2
3	TOMB RAIDER 2
4	BULLET PROOF MONK
5	BAD BOYS 2
6	TERMINATOR 3
7	TOMB RAIDER 2
8	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

Novaliches

692-8190 [illegible]

1	TOMB RAIDER 2
2	BULLET PROOF MONK
3	BAD BOYS 2
4	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
5	TERMINATOR 3
6	BAD BOYS 2
7	TOMB RAIDER 2
8	LIZZIE MCGUIRE

Malabon

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2	TOMB RAIDER 2
3	BAD BOYS 2
4	BULLET PROOF MONK

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1	BAD BOYS 2
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
4	BANGKOK HAUNTED
5	BULLET PROOF MONK
6	TOMB RAIDER 2

Imus

875-383

1	BULLET PROOF MONK
2	BANGKOK HAUNTED
3	TOMB RAIDER 2
4	BAD BOYS 2
5	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
6	BAD BOYS 2

Sta. Rosa

Laguna

(049)837-09

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	TOMB RAIDER 2
3	BULLET PROOF MONK
4	BANGKOK HAUNTED
5	SABIK

Bacolod

441-[illegible]

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	BULLET PROOF MONK
3	TOMB RAIDER 2
4	28 DAYS LATER
5	JACKASS THE MOVIE
6	WILD BUTTERFLY

Iloilo

336-8077-7

1	BAD BOYS 2
2	DOWN WITH LOVE
3	IMPOSTOR
4	TOMB RAIDER 2
5	TOMB RAIDER 2
6	JACKASS THE MOVIE

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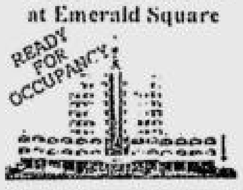

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T-5343484 / 09179556634

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nr Ateneo 1BRTB grg 7T 6819583

QUEZON CITY

Cubao P3.5 Std Lady 9124428

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- Paseo Center
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- PhilAXA Tower
- 139 Corporate Center
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ORTIGAS CBD
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2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

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AM. COCKER SPANIEL. PEDIGREE W/ SHOT PAPERS. BLACK OR BUFF. FEMALE. 3 MONTH. P20000 PH8160148

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Wanted Immediately!!!

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- ➢ Knowledge in plumbing works is an advantage
- ➢ With pleasing personality

To apply send or mail your resumé/biodata to RECRUITMENT DEPT., UNIT 12 STARMALL COMPLEX, EDSA COR SHAW BLVD., MANDALUYONG CITY. Please attach photocopy of your NBI, Brgy Clearance, Certificate from any Trade School (if any) and 1 recent 2x2 picture. Incomplete requirements will not be entertained.

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OFC PERSONEL 09195264417 CORA

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5271590

AUCTION SALE

FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, INC. 1137 P. Gil St. Paco, Mla. Will sell all expired pledges left during the months of December 2002 and January 2003 on August 10, 2003, Sunday at 10:00 a.m..
Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of late MAXIMO PUYAT JR. was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc.366 Page 82 BookXXXIII Series 2000 before Notary Public Regalado P. Castillo of Quezon City.
PDI-July 23,30 & Aug. 6,2003

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of CLAUDIO F. HACHERO and late ANNIEA HACHERO has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc.#2567 Series of 2003 Service #2567 under Consul General Jocelyn Batoon Garcia of Philippine Consular Service Washington District of Columbia USA 16th day of July 2003
(PDI-July 23, 20 & Aug. 6, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS
This is to inform the public that booklet of Official Receipts of Microcircuits Corporation with Nos. 31151-31200 was lost last July 2, 2003. Microcircuits Corp. is then not accountable for any transaction using the booklet date after July 2. (PDI-July 30, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Kids adult wear 09167940002

NEW 4 STOREY DORMITORY
BLDG UNIVERSITY BELT
AREA SAMPALOC MANILA
936-1426 / 937-2622

RETIRE 2YRS 0918-9051567

BUSINESS FOR SALE

EARN EXTRA 0917-8928471

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE AUTHORITY
4th Floor, Building B, NIA Complex, EDSA, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 922 3371, 9265877, 922-3368, 929 6071 loc 123
Telefax: 922-3364; 922 3355
e-mail address: fpa_77@yahoo.com website: www.fadinap.org/philippines
P.O. Box 2583, Q.C.

10 July 2003

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 18
Series of 2003

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY THE FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Section 11 of Presidential Decree 1144, allowing the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority to impose fees, the following schedule of fees and charges for services rendered by FPA is hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned:

	Fees & Charges (Php)
Section 1. Accreditation of Safety Dispenser of Fertilizer and Pesticide (3-year validity)	600.00
Section 2. Certificate Authorizing the Sale of Paraquat	300.00
Section 3. Pesticide Laboratory Accreditation	
3.1 Filing	500.00
3.2 Assessment	4,500.00
3.3 Re-assessment	3,500.00
3.4 Accreditation	
a. Full status (3-year validity)	10,500.00
b. Probationary status (1-year validity)	3,500.00
3.5 Extension of Scope of Accreditation	500.00

Section 4. Repealing Clause - This order supersedes all other orders and/or circulars issued inconsistent herewith.

Section 5. Effectivity - This Administrative Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

(Sgd.) **LUIS P. LORENZO, JR.**
Secretary, DA and Chairman of the Board, FPA

(PDI--July 30, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Office of the Ombudsman is inviting prospective bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply and delivery of:

- 01 - unit Sports Utility Vehicle, 3.0 ltr., Diesel, 4 x 2

Accreditation requirement and bidding documents may be secured from the Property Section / General Services Division, 2nd Floor, Office of the Ombudsman, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

1. Pre-bid Conference: – 06 August 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
2. Date of Submission:
   a. Pre-qualification Requirement – 11 August 2003 until 4:00 p.m.
   b. Technical & Financial Proposal – 20 August 2003 at 9:30 a.m.
3. Opening of Bids: (Technical & Financial Proposal) – 20 August 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

Bid documents will be issued upon payment of non-refundable fee of THREE HUNDRED PESOS (P300.00).

The Financial Proposal shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond either in the form of GSIS Bond, Cashier's/Manager's Check and/or Cash Bond of at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The Office of the Ombudsman reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and to accept the most advantageous to the office.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ERNESTO M. NOCOS
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 30, 2003)

EQUIPMENTS FOR SALE!!!

The following articles are offered for sale with their indicative (negotiable) prices:

Item	Location	Indicative Price
Riding Mower	Bonifacio Global City, Taguig	PhP 100,000
Kubota Tractor Model L4200DT	Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio Quezon	PhP 300,000
Kubota Tractor Model L3300DT	Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio Quezon	PhP 200,000
Generator KVA 250 (A1 Condition)	Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio Quezon	PhP 690,000

For inquiries and further details, please call Mr. Froilan Tejada at 885 3739 and (0917)627 8288. Offers should be sent to the above officer at Building A, Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila not later than August 15, 2003. All offers to purchase shall be subject to approval by company approving authority.

NO JOBS IN IRAQ YET
Call POEA at 722-1144 or 722-1155

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XII
Tacurong City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA), Region XII, Tacurong City invites parties/contractors duly registered with CIAP to register with NFA and to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the cotracts of:

PROJECTS/ CONTRACTS	APPROVED BUDGET	CIAP CATEGORY	CONTRACT DURATION
Re-roofing of GID warehouse No. 4 (duplex), Installations of Secondary Doors and Window Screens	P 3,124,539.38	Minimum CIAP category is medium sub-category A	8 weeks (56 calendar days)
Re-roofing of GID warehouse No. 2 (single), Installations of Secondary Doors and Window Screens	P 1,988,878.27	Minimum CIAP category is small sub-category B	6 weeks (42 calendar days)

Projects/Contracts location is at NFA Compound, M'lang, North Cotabato

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Registration Requirement Forms to Applicant Contractors	- July 23 up to July 30, 2003 (3:00 PM)
Deadline of Submission of Registration Requirements	- August 1, 2003 (3:00 PM)
Forms and Issuance of Registration Certificate Issuance of Eligibility Requirement Forms	- July 25 up to Aug. 4, 2003 (3:00 PM)
Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirement Forms	- August 6, 2003 (3:00 PM)
Deadline of Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	- August 6, 2003 (3:00 PM)
Pre-Bid Conference	- August 21, 2003 (9:00 AM)
Submission of Sealed Bid	- August 29, 2003 (8:30-9:00 AM)
Opening of Sealed Bid	- August 29, 2003 (9:10 AM)

Contractors may register with the Regional Bid and Awards Committee (RBAC) Secretariat upon submission of letter of intent and securing Application for Registration Form.

Eligibility requirement forms may be available to NFA Registered Contractors at the RBAC Secretariat upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Php 1,000.00. Also Bid/Tender documents, shall be issued only td eligible contractors upon payment of nonrefundable fee of Php 3,000.00 per project/contract.

The VENUE of all activities stated above will be at the Farmers' Training Center. NFA-SPGC, Compound, Tacurong City.

The criteria in determining the eligibility of contractors is the pass/fail method as stated in the IRR of amended PD 1594 and Executive Order No. 40. The Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid Method will be used in the evaluation of bid.

The RBAC Secretariat can be contacted at Tel. Nos. (064) 200-3803 / 384-1247 and Fax No. (064) 200-3807, Contact persons are Ms. Ma. Cristina O. Pleña / Engr. Adoramo A. Aromin.

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids thereof, waive any formalities found therein or to accept or reject any or to award to any contractor whose bids is considered most advantageous to the NFA and/or to the government.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. GARCIA, CESO V
Regional Manager

(PDI - July 22 & 30, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila
Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Foreign Affairs-Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (DFA-PBAC) is inviting qualified healthcare providers to apply for eligibility and bid for the Department's Healthcare Contract for 2003-2004.

All interested healthcare providers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00) starting July 30 – August 13, 2003 at the DFA-PBAC Secretariat, Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, 12th Flr., DFA Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, (#834-4066). Application for eligibility shall be evaluated using the "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only the companies prequalified by DFA-PBAC shall be allowed to submit bids.

DFA-PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, to waive any deficiencies and required formalities embodied therein. DFA-PBAC assumes no obligation whatsoever to offset the expenses or losses the bidder may have incurred in the preparation of the bids. DFA-PBAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not to award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN**
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs
Chairman, DFA-PBAC

(PDI–July 30 & Aug. 6, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 1
SAN JUAN, LA UNION 2514
Tel. Nos. (072)242-5909/10 Fax: (072)242-5908

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) Region 1, through its Bid and Award Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the Repair Roof replacement of Warehouse No. 2 at Barangay Carmay, Rosales, Pangasinan. Scope of works for the said repair works shall not be limited to the following

1. Dismantling/piling of damaged roofings, flashing, gutters, ridge roll, and downspout, etc
2. Chipping and removal of existing steel casement windows;
3. Installation of new pre-painted ordinary corr. roofings sheet, skylights, flashing, gutter, ridge roll;
4. Installation of 6" PVC Pipe for center gutter and 4" PVC for front and side elevations.
5. Repair of continous ridge ventilation;
6. Conversion of steel Casement windows into concrete louver windows with screen on both sides on aluminum frame (Note "6 units existing steel casement window to be replaced by 6" chb).
7. Repair and conversation of three (3) units steel doors to steel folded door;
8. Provision of three (3) units steel screen doors;
9. Repainting of all steel structures (columns, trusses, rafters, purlins, etc.) one (1) red oxide and two (2) coats aluminum;
10. Repainting of all concrete structures two (2) coats (one coat flat, one coat semi-gloss);
11. Repair and rewiring of electrical system;
12. Repair of drainage system;
13 Cleaning and clearing of site.

SCHEDULE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING

Issuance of RES Form	- August 6, 2003 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)
Submission of Accomplished RES Form	- August 11-12, 2003 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Contractors	- August 21, 2003 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM)
Pre-Bidding Conference	- August 27, 2003 (10:00 AM)
Submission and Opening of Bids	- September 10, 2003 (10:00 AM)

Contractor's Category MEDIUM "A" or higher
for Building and Industrial Plant
Appropriated Plant
Appropriated Budget P 5,500,000.00
Completion of the project 120 Calendar days

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conference (s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification of the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bids and Award of Contract shall governed by the provisions of P.D. 5194 and E.O. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), as amended and other applicable rules and regulations.

Request for Eligibility Screening (RES Form) may be secured and submitted at NFA-RBAC Secretariat 2nd Floor, Regional Office, San Juan, La Union upon presentation of Letter of Intent, updated PCAB/IAC License (Original) and payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Plans and Specifications and Bidding documents, shall be issued to Eligible contractors/bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect or formally, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and accept offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIANO Q. MOLINA**
Asst. Regional Director
Chairman, NFA-RPBAC

(PDI - July 23 & 30, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bldg. #3 San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue,
Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 7438301; Fax No. 743-7236
E-mail Address: www.doh.gov.ph

21 July 2003

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

IFB No. 2003-8-12 (19)

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed bids from interested bidders to provide ***Janitorial Services*** to the DOH Central Office for the year 2003.

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon submission of Letter of Intent and valid Mayor's Permit upon payment of ***non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP2,000.00)*** only from the Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. No. 26 from July 28 to August 8, 2003, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held on July 31, 2003 at 9:30 a.m., DOH Library, G/F, Bldg. #12-A, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Bids must be submitted to the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) at the HHRDB Conference Room, 3/F, Bldg. #12-A, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, not later than 9:30 a.m. on August 12, 2003. The Bid Security shall be in an amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check (1%), and Bank Guarantee (1-1/2%) confirmed by a reputable local bank.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the Department of Health.

The Approved Budget Cost for this requirement is Sixteen Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP16,200,000.00)

By authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 23 & 30, 2003)

.1. Car : Nissan
Make : Cefiro (Infinity Look)
Model : 1997
Color : Black
Mileage: 24,594 km.
P520,000.00

2. Car : Chevrolet
Make : Silverado 4 WD
Model : 2000
Color : Black
Mileage: 17,079 km.
P780,000.00

3. Car : Ford
Make : Explorer 4WD
Model : 2001
Color : Green
Mileage: 10,000 km.
P1,080,000.00

Contact person:
Jeannette Cabalu
Telephone No. **925-7104**
or **925-6716**
Cellphone No. **0917-8490089**

Bidding for F & B Concessions

Alabang Country Club, Inc. will bid out all F & B outlets. Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification forms from the office of the General Manager.

FACTS

1. ACCI will undertake a 3-year rehabilitation program of its main Clubhouse with an outlay of P70 million.
2. Due to pressing demand for new badminton courts, a P10 million structure will be added to the racquet sports complex.
3. In order to improve F & B services, the club is spending P8 million to completely renovate the main kitchen, from walk-in freezers to drainage and ventilation. Completion is expected on August 31, 2003.
4. Locker Rooms for Men and Ladies are undergoing renovation.

STATISTIC

Gross Receipts from all F & B outlets for the year 2002 Php 50.4 million.
Gross Receipts from all F & B outlets for the 5 months in 2003 Php 20.3 million.

SCHEDULE

Pre-qualification Forms Availability	: Starting August 01, 2003
Submission of Pre-qualification Papers	: August 22, 2003
Pre-Bid Conference	: August 29, 2003
Submission of Bids	: September 05, 2003

Bidders may bid only for F & B outlets within their range of financial and organizational resources.

For particulars, please call up the office of the General Manager at Tel. Nos. 842-3530 local 160 or 807-0335.

(PDI – July 30, 31 & August 2, 2003)

Office of the President
Republic of the Philippines
CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Clark Development Corporation (CDC) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested suppliers for the here under listed project:

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSIONING OF SKID STEER LOADER EQUIPMENT"

Interested parties may submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and Eligibility Form for bidding not later than August 11, 2003 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) at the Office of BAC Secretariat, 3rd Flr., Bldg. 2127, E. Quirino Ave., CSEZ, Pampanga. Interested suppliers of the company are hereby required to submit the accomplished Eligibility Statement upon submission of LOI. The requirements are as follows:

a) DTI/SEC registration, Mayor's permit/ Municipal License, Tax Payer Identification Number;
b) Certified copy of latest audited financial statement as reflected by the BIR;
c) Certificate of Exclusive Distributorship for the equipment;
d) Certified list of clients with the same equipment supplied for the last three (3) years.

Issuance of Eligibility Form will be on July 30 to August 08, 2003 (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) at BAC Secretariat, 3rd Flr., Bldg. 2127 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 1,000.00.

The Approved Budget for the Project to be Bid is (Php 1.30 M).

Only those who are eligible for the said project shall be invited and notified for the schedule of pre-bid and bidding conferences. Bid/Tender Documents are available for issuance to eligible suppliers at the above-cited address upon payment of non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00).

CDC reserves the right to reject any or all applications on all bids without offering any reasons, waive any formality, informality and/or defect and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government, nor does CDC guarantee that an award will be made.

Submission and operating of bids shall be announced in the Notice to Eligible Bidders.

All inquiries and letters shall be addressed to:

The BAC Secretariat
Clark Development Corporation
3rd Floor, Bldg. 2127, E. Quirino Avenue, CSEZ, Pampanga

(Sgd.) ROMEO N. DYOCO, JR.
BAC Chairman
Clark Development Corporation

(PDI – July 30 & August 6, 2003)

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In Memory
of Our Dearly Beloved Sister

Gaudelia S. Alejo

*Now peacefully rests in the infinite
Grace & Goodness of the Lord
on the 28th of July 2003.*

Her remains lie in state at Jacinto Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Inc. (inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat, Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, July 30, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park Crematory, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Our Dearly Beloved IMA

ANGELINA DIZON VDA. DE VICENCIO

of Arayat, Pampanga peacefully joined her Creator on July 28, 2003 at the age of 76.

*Her bereaved husband **Felicisimo Sr. "Fely"** (deceased), children, **Eliseo** and wife **Monic**, **Jun** and **Nina**, **Fe**, **Edgar** (deceased) and wife **Carlie**, **Leila** and husband **Jerry**, **Sylvia**, and husband **Ric**, **Marilou** and husband **Arnel**, and **Eloise** and grandchildren, **Harold** and **Marge**, **Ryan** and **Tintine**, **Dale** and **Tintin**, **Hazellene**, **Ton-Ton**, **Chester**, **Jerome**, **Lyka**, **Dianne**, **JR**, **Anna**, **Angelou**, and **Alyssa** and great grandchildren, **Jam**, **JM**, **Rap-Rap** and **Caloy** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.*

Her body lies in state at her residence at 101 Paralaya, Arayat, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 2, 2003 at the Arayat Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Schedule of services for

Emmanuel N. Peláez

who served his country as vice-president,
lawmaker, and ambassador

July 30 - August 1	Daily masses at 8 p.m. at the St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susanna Parish Church, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa. His body lies in state at this venue until August 1, Friday, except for Thursday morning when it will be moved to the Senate.
July 31, Thursday 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Necrological Services, Philippine Senate
August 2, Saturday Promptly at 8 a.m.	Funeral mass and final necrological services at St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa. Cremation to follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

*Infinite gratitude for the past
Infinite service to the present
Infinite responsibility for the future*

NELLY GUEVARRA ALVIAR

of Calamba and Los Baños, Laguna
*joined her Creator on July 24, 2003
at the age of 68.*

Her loving husband **Santy**; children **Irma** and **Allan**, **Alvin** and **Liza**, **Eileen** and **Philip**, **Odele** and **Arni**, **Ulysses** and **Pinky**; grandchildren **Werner**, **Sean**, **Carlo**, **Melinda**, **Francis**, **Samantha**, **Anne**, and **Maia Cerise**; mother, brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Masili, Calamba City. Requiem Mass and eulogy will be on Sunday, August 3, 2003, at 8:00 a.m. Cremation will follow at 11:00 a.m. at Eternal Gardens in Biñan, Laguna.

DR. ROMULO DIONISIO MAGSALIN

(August 24, 1940 – July 21, 2003)
Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on July 21, 2003 at Wichita, Kansas, USA

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat Parañaque (July 29-31) to be transferred to Tipas, Taguig on August 1-5, 2003.

Interment will be on August 5, 2003, 2:00 PM at I.F.I. Cemetery, Tipas, Taguig, Metro Manila.

"For God so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."

John 3:16

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ROSARIO PASCUAL DIAZ

Wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude
and appreciation to all those who offered
masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages
of sympathy, made donations to the
foundation, and stood vigil in our
hour of bereavement.

ARIEL TIRONA DAYRO

November 17, 1933 - July 27, 2003

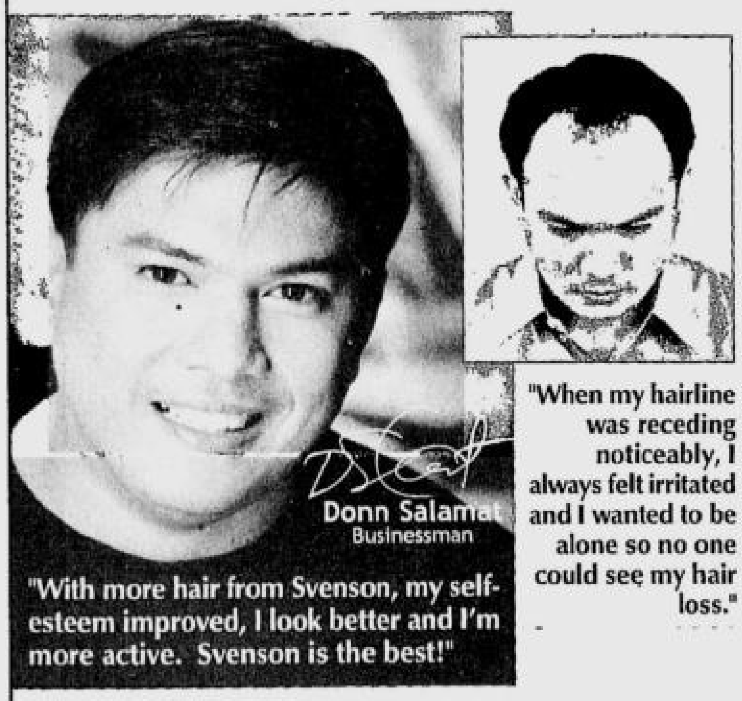
Joined his Creator on July 27, 2003 at the age of 69.

His loving wife **Concepcion Mangali**, mother **Simeona Tirona Dayro**, sisters **Celia D. Alano** and **Cora D. Ong**, brothers-in-law, **Boy Alano** and **Pepe Ong**, children **Hernan**, **Cynthia**, **Noel**, **Evelyn**, **Vanni** and **Marietta**, daughters-in-law **Sally**, **May** and **Janet**, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Friday, August 1, 2003
at 1:00 p.m. at Golden Heaven,
Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas.

BUSINESS



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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

RP seeks inclusion of more local products in US GSP

By Michelle V. Remo and Christine A. Gaylican

THE GOVERNMENT is preparing its bid for the inclusion of additional local products in the list of goods given preferential treatment by the United States under its Generalized System of Preference.

The US government recently announced it was starting the GSP review for this year.

Under the GSP, the US grants duty-free access to about 4,100 products from 139 beneficiary countries.

The Department of Trade and Industry said that among the products the government would push for inclusion in the GSP were coco fatty acids and carrageenan.

However, the Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines said it would rather defer its application for the inclusion of carrageenan in the GSP than give up the pollution charges it filed against US firm FMC Marine Colloids.

Earlier reports indicated that the chances of getting carrageenan into the GSP list were dim unless "the hurdles to the business of FMC here are removed."

Philippine Ambassador to the United States Alberto del Rosario has warned the government against applying for the product's inclusion in the GSP saying that such a move might only jeopardize the country's trade and diplomatic relations with the US.

"To insist on submitting the carrageenan petition would not only lead to its rejection but may also prejudice other (Philippine) petitions. To proceed with the submission could also be construed as provoking unnecessary conflict in Philippine-US trade relations," Del Rosario said in a letter to the industry association.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the trade department was now coordinating with various industry groups in line with the preparation of the country's GSP proposal. The Philippines and other exporting countries have until Sept. 2 to submit their petitions.

GSP products are selected based on the following considerations: the US industry is not adversely affected (by the entry of the products) as determined by the US international commission; the waiver of tariff serves the national interest of the United States; the applicant country neither discriminates against nor impose unjustifiable barrier to US exports; the applicant country provides adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights, and the applicant country must have a treaty or trade agreement with the US.

Peso seen bouncing back to 53 to $1 in Q4

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said he expected the peso to bounce back to the 53 to $1 on the back of improved foreign exchange inflows from exports and portfolio investments.

"This (depreciation) is really regional and seasonal. This is really a period of weakness," Buenaventura said.

The peso yesterday tumbled to a new four-month low of 54.47 before closing at 54.67 to the dollar at the Philippine Dealing System.

Buenaventura said it was unfortunate that the Philippines was recently hit by a double whammy—the escape of suspected Indonesian terrorist Al Ghozi and the mutiny held by 300 disgruntled soldiers at the Makati central business district.

"We have to live with it for a while," Buenaventura said. "Even our bonds suffered. We will just have to wait, because there are really concerns and the government will have to address them."

He said that by October to November, export earnings were expected to pick up again to correct recent trade imbalances.

"Imports are very high today but they are expected to taper off by the end of the year. On the whole, I believe the peso will recover," he said.

The country's import bill usually peaks every third quarter of the year as enterprises beef up inventory for the fourth quarter holidays.

"We expect the peso to revert to where we originally estimated it—in the area of 53 (to the dollar)," he said.

Despite the recent volatility, Buenaventura said the BSP would likely keep a neutral stance on its key policy rates.

Buenaventura said he would not expect the country to generate a lot of foreign direct investments (FDI) for the rest of the year given recent negative developments.

"But I think our exports would recover, our remittances should continue to go up and portfolio investments will eventually recover," he said.

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Corolla 1992 up (Except Altis)	1,080
Camry / Corona EX Saloon, Exsior	1,680
Revo	1,580
Tamaraw FX	1,480
Hi-Ace	1,660
Hi-Lux	1,680

CLUTCH DISC REPLACEMENT	
Corolla (Except Altis)	3,235
Corona	3,405
Camry (1996-2002)	3,560
Revo	3,850
Tamaraw FX (Gas & Dsl)	3,660 - 4,880
Hi-Ace	4,795
Hi-Lux	4,070

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LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160 or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

PHOTO BY TIM YAP

WHERE WERE YOU DURING THE 'COUP?'

Many of us were affected, some were scared and some others didn't care. Some sided with the rebels while others only had contempt for them. There were those who thought hard about the issues, and those who were merely glad for the excuse not to go to school. The point: You can never put young people in a box. This event just proved it.

I was at the Batangas Racing Circuit since Friday for practice for the Ford Lynx Cup. I got the message from my business partner saying not to go out, that they got a message that there was going to be a coup attempt. One of the drivers also got a message from Manila. *Binalewela lang namin*, but that night, *nag*-coup *na nga*. We were watching to know if we could go home or not. There were two things on my mind: winning the race and getting home safely. I got both.—**Dominic Ochoa, actor**

I was at home watching everything on TV. I feel that the young officers' grievances were valid. It's just that they should have used other means. I salute them for showing the country what's wrong with our bureaucracy. I think it's just what we need to see what's really wrong with our government.—**Sam Refran, 20, student, 2bU! correspondent**

I was nursing a terrible fever at home while glued to the TV. I believed the cries of the twenty-something PMA-ers who narrated their accusations with tears in their eyes, rather than the traditional politicians who are nursing political ambitions any day of the week.—**Lex Ledesma, Super! columnist**

"I was reading 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald. *Nalaman ko kasi nag*text friend *ko na may kakilala sa loob*. Take care *daw*. It was surprising because I was just in Oakwood the previous Thursday.—**Shayn Santiago, jour-**

WHERE/ C2

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WHERE WERE YOU DURING THE 'C

From page C1

nalism graduate

I was at home, supposed to be studying for an exam, but I was glued to the TV. Unlike Edsa 2, I sympathized with both sides. The Magdalo group is made up of bright, brave young men. One prays that, in the future, they champion their causes more prudently.— **Anne Rose Elicaño, 2bU! correspondent**

I was with my kids when I first heard about it on the radio early Saturday night. Surprisingly, I was not as scared as I used to be. Erwin and I even went drinking in Greenbelt that night. It became doubly hard to believe that something was up because there were so many people partying and drinking. Of course, when I woke up Sunday morning, first thing I did was go to the supermarket and buy extra food and supplies. To that extent, I gave importance to that useless exercise. Their issues, albeit valid, are not enough reason to want to overthrow the government.—**Jules Alcantara**

We were in Temple and all of us headed to V Bar. I thought there was just a false alarm of a bomb threat. Didn't sound or look serious during that time.—**Jam Alindogan, UAAP courtside reporter**

I was in church practicing with my other choirmates. I was thinking, '*Bakit ang daming* absent *sa mga kasama ko? Naki*-rally *kaya sila?*'"—**Deyey, Journalism graduate**

I believe there's a strong basis for their grievances, but rebellion wasn't the right solution. *Akala ko wala nang pasok*, hehe.—**Chezka, 18**

> I was in Temple Bar in Greenbelt 3, having fun, when suddenly around 3 a.m., the guards asked everyone to go home because of the bombs. I went home right away. I didn't want to get stuck in the crossfire.
> **—Ed Castillo, 22,**
> ***Political Science graduate, businessman***

Was at the BBC One Night Only event in Fort. I was thinking, not again! Can't they just leave me to have fun?—**Alvin, publicist**

I was supposed to go to Glorietta Saturday night, but I suddenly changed my mind and went to another mall instead. Come Sunday, I found out the rebels were in Oakwood. I had plans to go to a mall that day, but my parents advised us to just stay home, which I did.— **Mark Bonifacio, 2bU! correspondent**

I was in bed at home, getting pissed at the soldiers. Because of them *na*-bump off *ang* "The Buzz," *nawala tuloy* my dose of weekly *tsismis*."—**Jet Valle, publicist**

I was on my way to a group meeting when I found out about it. Edsa, where I was supposed to pass, was blocked. Then some friends SMSd about the bombs. With my *kabarkada*'s dad succumbing to cancer a week ago and my high school teacher getting stabbed to death the night before, I was thinking, 'God, what is happening to the world?'"—**Melissa Telan, student, 2bU! correspondent**

I was at home, watching the whole thing on TV, waiting for Glorietta to blow up. Just Glorietta. *Ang pangit nung* ending.—**Ivy Anabo, journalism student**

I was at our apartment with my friends when we saw the news special on TV at 7 a.m. Primarily, my concern was how it would affect the economy, but later when I heard their concerns—how corrupt the Philippine Army was, I realized that this was a group of highly idealistic officers. On the shallow side, I started thinking about my life without Glorietta. Good thing the whole thing was resolved without violence.—**Jason Doplito, 2bU! correspondent**

I was at the Seventeen party at Rockwell Tent, eating sushi, doing beats for Akafellas and texting with someone.—**DJ Mike**

I was at home watching my daily dose of music videos when Ogie Alcasid's latest video bored me into channel-surfing. The panicky worrywart that I am, I seriously thought it was going to be the start of the third world war and I just couldn't accept how it had to start from our country.—**Omark Katot, 23**

I was on my way home from Seventeen's "Sigaw" event at the Rockwell Tent. I was thinking, would there be another Edsa revolution? I was also thinking if GMA would give in to the coup organizers.—**Patrick Padilla, journalism student**

> I was at home watching the news. During the last *kudeta*, rebels crossed the fence of our home which was near the site, so naturally I was terrified it might happen again. But I was happy in a way that [this time] there are military officers who are not corrupt and who are willing to risk their lives to voice their grievances.
> **—Tammy David, 19,**
> ***student, 2bU! correspondent***

At first I was just concerned with the Milo Marathon scheduled on Sunday morning. I watched TV to put myself to sleep so I can get up early enough to make it to the race. It didn't help, especially when I came across a report of an impending coup. That evening, I watched a movie at the Glorietta and grabbed a snack afterwards at Greenbelt and never knew that bombs were being planted around the area. I was wondering what I would do if I actually saw the rogue officers do their thing. Anyway, despite all that, I managed to wake up early. But I learned the race was canceled, so I tried going back to sleep while watching some news channel. The voices of Sec. Lina, Sen. Honasan and Ltsg. Trillanes accompanied me to sleep. I woke up before noon. I knew it wouldn't be too serious and that it wouldn't last long, but I still monitored the coup. I had to, it was part of my job and, unfortunately, I was on duty at that time. I was certain it would end soon, so I was getting more impatient by the minute. I just couldn't wait for it to end because I knew that by the time it was through, everybody would be on the losing end.—**Chino P., 26, Caloocan City**

I was in Jupiter Street. We were freaking out because we all really wanted to go home. We went around Makati trying to see where we could pass, aside from Edsa, and then we saw some soldiers on the streets with guns, carrying those bombs and tying them around Glorietta. Of course, we were freaking out, we were so scared, so we rushed to one of our friends' house in Bel Air. We were deciding whether we were going push through with going home or spending the night there. We just watched the news and stayed over at my friend's place in JP Rizal. There were options where we could pass on our way home, but the guys who were going to drive us home were scared... We didn't want to end up as the first few casualties.—**Carmela Sison, 21, communication arts student**

I was at the MEG anniversary party when my mom and a friend started telling me to go home because there was a coup. Being the obedient daughter that I was, I refused to go home and bargained with them that I'd be home before 12 midnight. Images of soldiers rushing into Eastwood and holding us and about 100
pubescent girls hostage n
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my friends were hurt.—**M**
Reyes, 2bU! corresponden

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Makati?—**Leidy Loreto, jo**
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> **—Jugs Jugueta**
> ***Itchyworms vocalis***

SPICY. Mark Bantigue and Tina Pamintuan

MOD pair Ryan Villareal and Val delos Santos

PLAYPEN. Rudy Hatfield and Jimmy Alapag

HOT. Amaya Barretto and Bianca Zobel

CHAMPIONS. Harvey Carey and Asi Taulava

INDIE chic Martin Valdes and Audrey Carpio

DELILAH-free Celine Lopez and Mich Dulce

THE ROCK
and Bonnie

C-LISTERS Lani Jorgan, Joy Hendrickson and Ritchie Santos

PARTY PALS. JM Rodriguez, Dustin Reyes and Koy Guevarra

F4! Freida Dario

'80s vixen Xeng Zulueta

Good vibes, bad vibes

Tim Yap

"IN the interest of safety, we have to cut short the party, we have received reports that the troops have marched into Makati." It sounded surreal, but within minutes, everyone had left the Forbestown showroom where Hotel Costes DJ **David De Barce** had been spreading his good vibes via BBC's biggest party so far.

From there, I sought temporary shelter from it all at my friend **Tina Tinio**'s house in Polo Club before my friend **JM Rodriguez** and I decided to go straight where the action was. At exactly 4:30 a.m., we went right smack into the center of Ayala Avenue and Rustan's, huddled with the media men and women armed with their giant cameras, ready to record the action.

I only had my trusted little Casio Exilim camera and my trusted driver **Abet** to make sure that if evacuation time should come, I would get some help. Then again, to escape was the farthest thing from my mind, even if there was this little voice inside me saying, "Why the hell am I here?"

JM and I chose to pass through the 6750 route, going through a deserted Dream Bar, walking through a dark alley leading to Rustan's Essences, just a few footsteps from Oakwood.

The roads were littered with fallen "No Parking" signs, a sort of cleaner version of a "28 Days Later" scenario. We stepped forward with caution, unaware of whatever bombs that were within the territory. I had never seen Makati in this state ever.

Konfrontasi, sort of

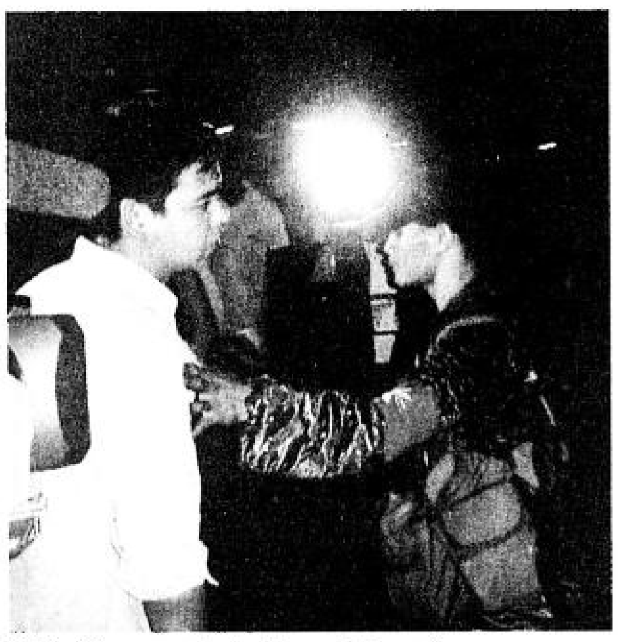
"*Wag kayong lalapit*—not one step!" A voice from the darkness howled. "We need to get something from our room. We are checked in at Oakwood," JM and I answered back, hands up in the air. "*Si* Tim Yap *ho ito, si* JM Rodriguez *po, artista po*!" We tried to charm the rebels, thinking they would recognize us. But I guess not.

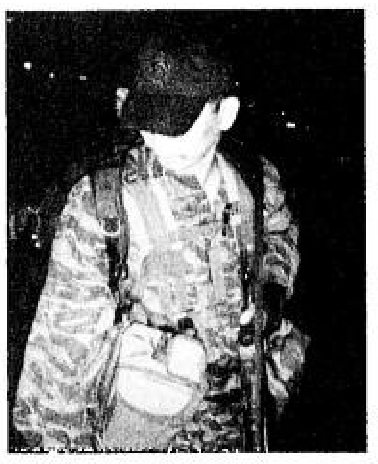
"*Umuwi na kayo*!" the soldiers screamed at us, warning us of danger. "But we live there!" We answered back, as we went nearer.

When we got to Essences, the troops came out. Soldiers with red arm bands headed towards us. They had big guns. The only metal that I had was my little camera, Abet was nowhere. I looked around and it was just the two of us left there—us and the soldiers in the darkness.

"*Ah, hindi kayo aatras, ha*!" And they brought out plastic handcuffs—the ones used in the airport for luggage when you don't have any Abloy locks around. I wanted to back off, but JM was insistent. "We just need to get our friends from Oakwood," we said, with sour faces, making a last-ditch effort to be allowed entry into the rebels' lair.

"Yeah *pare, 'wag na*, don't push it, " a calm voice out of nowhere popped out. Another


JM Rodriguez at the forefront of the action



ONE OF US. Choey Velayo and Buda Concio

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

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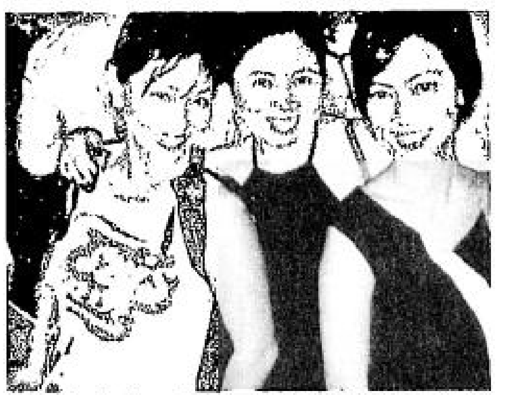
YOUNG TURKS. Carlo Antonio and Paulo Campos

STYLE COUP. Rina Marquez and Joey La'O

GLOBE's Roland Dallarte and MJ Hyndmann

FLAVA'S Melissa Henderson and Happy Sy


POSH trio Kara Tolentino, Tina Tinio and Jenni Epperson

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Manila and were even planning to watch movies in Glorietta. We immediately turned on our AM radio and listened to the latest news and learned about the North Expressway being blocked by the military. My friends received text messages advising us to just stay there and wait for updates. So to be safe, we just decided to head back to out friend's farm where we stayed the previous night and extended our stay there for one more night.—**Lui, 23, 2bU! correspondent**

At home, in bed all day with a bad cold and tonsilitis but glued to the TV. I remained calm, but deep inside, I was pretty fearful of the worst-case scenario.—**Jon Duay, programmer**

Was with Aliya Parcs and Jay-R in Malate, asking for more food. Then we left Jay and rushed home.—**Franco Mabanta, commercial model and TV personality**

I was at home, online, and updating my weblog. The first thing that came to mind when I learned about the coup attempt was, "Oh no, must watch the news!" The second one was, "Will this appear in the ACET?"—**Bobbie, 15, student**

Was watching TV at a suite in Tomas Morato, where my boyfriend checked in overnight since he couldn't get through Makati to go home in Laguna. I was alarmed, but didn't think it was enough to shake GMA off her seat, knowing how stubborn she can be when she wants to. Also thinking if I have work the next day.—**Wednesday Addams**

At home and at Edsa. I was thinking, our country doesn't need this, especially now!—**Bam Aquino, TV personality**

> I left Hotel InterCon at 11 p.m. Saturday. All through Sunday, I was thinking, if only I had stayed for two more hours, I would have met the men in fatigues!
> **—Leslie Tan, 2bU!** ***correspondent***

It's not a coup, it's a mutiny. I was at the office when I heard the news. I was afraid to go out, so I waited for dawn before heading home.—**Jaemark, 21, IT professional**

Tried to sleep but couldn't, so I got stuck with some lousy TV coverage. The rebels were righteous, the attempt premature.—**Raya Martin, 2bU! correspondent**

I was hungry, sweating and stuck in traffic along MacArthur highway while trying to get to Manila. I was thinking, maybe I should have just stayed home and watched TV.—**Romel**

We had planned on watching a movie in Greenbelt after my cousin's birthday dinner Saturday night but my uncle approached us, looking dead serious, and said, "Let's all go home, there's a coup attempt." Apparently, someone texted him about it. Eager to prove that the whole thing was another SMS hoax, I called the office. "I suggest you stay where you are, or go home if you can," one of the reporters told me. It began to sink in—the whole thing was real.

But we really, really wanted to watch "Down With Love" so we still went. But we were late for the last full show. When we got home, my cousins texted me, saying we were lucky we passed the other way because around the time we went home, the rebels had started rigging up the bombs around Glorietta. I woke up at seven the next morning to watch the news. I couldn't stop thinking about the havoc the rebels' act would wreak on our tourism and economy. Idiots, I remember thinking. How uncivilized. Sure they had things to say, but was that really the most effective way of doing it?

I was feeling territorial, too, because my friends and I consider Glorietta one of our homes outside our homes. I was also annoyed with the countless politicians offering their statements on television and on radio, grabbing the spotlight for their political agenda. Around late evening, I fell asleep. When I woke up, it was over. It kinda brought me back to Edsa Dos, how I spent days in Edsa but fell asleep right before GMA was sworn in.—**Pam Pastor, 22, writer**

Running on barely five hours of sleep that day, I canceled all plans to go out and stayed at home, glued to our TV set for almost the whole day. I was furious at first—I didn't believe the mutiny was for the common good. It was all too much idealistic, and maybe even futile, although a small part of me empathized with the rebels because they did have legitimate grievances. Mostly though, I was scared of how much further the Philippines would plummet into depression after the crisis. Ultimately, I'm just thankful there wasn't any bloodshed.—**Maureen Tanedo, student, 2bU! correspondent**

A lot of things were going through my head. I was trying to think whether I should stay calm or, you know, panic. Because a part of me was really scared. It was happening two blocks away from me. So my brother prepared the car, loaded it with gas, we took a shower, talked to my dad, tried to see if something was going to happen, thinking what we were going to do, where we needed to go. We packed a little knapsack. It doesn't hurt to be prepared, it's one thing I've learned from past scrapes... We're all lucky that it ended in a peaceful way. If something did happen, at least we were prepared. I actually wanted to walk down my street and make *usyoso*. Being the curious person that I am, after my paranoia went away, I thought, "Can I just walk down there or bike down there and see what's going on?" I didn't want to listen to the radio and watch TV, I wanted to see what was actually going on. The other thing I was thinking was, "Shoot, all the restaurants are closed. I want to eat out." And also that my mom, my sister and my other brother weren't here, and thus they were safe if something bad did happen.—**Trisha Chiongban, Gameplan host and Studio 23 VJ**

. Atom Henares
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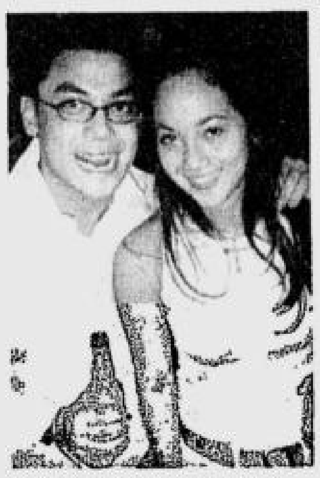
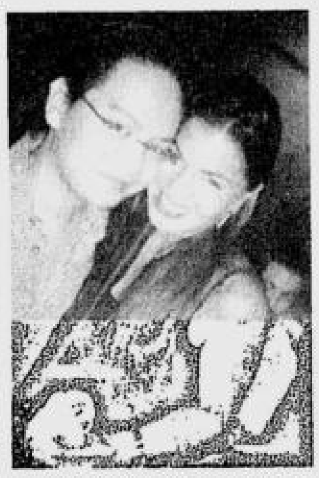
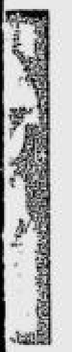
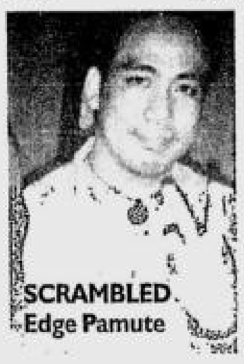

SIBLING VIBE. Mike and Bea Constantino


STYLE salute to Miguel Rosales and Geni Psinakis



BARhost, Fidel's Markus Schmidt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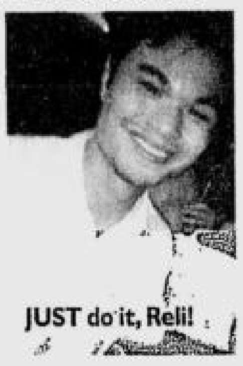
JUST do it, Reli!

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ne, opting to tune in to the

boob tube, and texting their loved ones to be careful. Still others forwarded joke texts—"Congrats! You have just won a 3-day, 2-night stay at Oakwood. Please claim your prize between 2 to 5 pm today."

Or "Ayala Land will charge the rebels per square space that they occupied, the bill will arrive at the end of the month, plus plus." Another one even had Rustan's saying, "Rustan's has an all-day special promo sale today, with a rebel of your choice as personal shopper!"

Some tend to box our generation as nothing but a raving band of fun seekers eager for the next big party and ever new sources of thrill. But we cannot be pigeonholed. Each generation has its own issues, its own concerns; each generation reacts to the milieu around it.

The weekend's incident showed young people, the idealistic rebels included, reacting to a situation that they felt should be corrected and reformed. Which shows that young people will continue to make a statement in the only way they could—with "passion and intensity" (just like **Louie Cruz**'s generation) and most important, with new ideas and refreshing idealism.

Tina, Darna and God's Kitchen

Wednesday, let's all hop to Restaurant 12 (now open after the no-smoking brouhaha) and welcome its sexy guest chef, Super columnist **Tina Pamintuan**. Expect Tina to turn 12 upside down.

This Friday, Ballet Philippines' "Darna" takes off with former "Darnas" in attendance at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

On Saturday, three big parties are happening simultaneously. **Louie Y's** (not exactly our generation, but then again the guy is timeless) returns to the Hyatt for a one-night-only engagement as an answer to all the '80s hype happening in the scene now.

Big Fish's "God's Kitchen" party happens at the NBC Tent. If you're in Boracay (where I'll be), hop by Bazzura's hot, hot, hot anniversary party.

On Sunday, why don't you hop by Glorietta 4 and Rustan's and help them recover from the sales lost as a result of the coup attempt?

While you're at it, why not check in at the Oakwood, too?

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Getting out of the box

By Maui V. Reyes

"IF I KNEW I would be giving a talk to people like you, I would have shaved this morning," Conrado de Quiros joked.

The whole room burst into fits of laughter, as some students leaned forward, eager to listen to what the media veteran had to say about the day's first module, "Bad News vs. Damaging News: Promoting Hope Without Sacrificing the Truth."

The first of two INQUIRER seminars this year, "Mediamorphosis: Developing Society Through Mass Media" not only inspired future and would-be media practitioners, but also virtually prepared the students to tackle many of today's mediums of communication.

Killing the messenger

The first module had the INQUIRER's very own De Quiros and GMA newscaster Mike Enriquez as speakers.

Paolo Bediones and Rhea Santos hosted the event and introduced the speakers.

A pony-tailed De Quiros took the stage, followed by a highly enthusiastic Mike Enriquez. Their message was simple: What people don't understand is that in between all the disappointing headlines, there is the underlying good news—that we have a free country and are able to keep a free press.

"People like to kill the messenger," De Quiros said. "We're just writing about what's out there."

He also pointed out that sensationalism is sloppy journalism, and the real challenge is to look for a creative way to present the news without leaving out the important facts.

Enriquez, on the other hand, emphasized that journalism is not for the faint of heart. If you think it's hard trying to tell a mother that her children are already dead while on the air, well, you're not exactly the only one. "You've got to be crazy to be in this field," he said, half-jokingly.

Slice of life

The second module, "Selling Through Sex: The Advertiser's Balancing Act," was probably what most of the students were looking forward to.

Firstly, it was about advertising, a field where most students dream of flexing their creative muscles in. Second, well, there was, of course, the sex angle.

"It's really how people perceive the ad," said David Guerrero, co-founder of BBDO Philippines. "I think that the Philippine advertising industry has progressed, and we're seeing a lot of slice-of-life ads."

When queried about the way sexy women are depicted in ads, he shrugged and said, "Sex objects will die a natural death. It will lose its glitter on its own."

Rina Jimenez-David added that some advertisers are starting to refuse supporting certain programs because of content, and candidly admitted that, "Without men, there would be a lot of happy, fat women."

Honest assessments

We all know Philippine cinema sucks, to be frank about it.

"I went [on an online forum] and people were talking about the film 'Magnifico,'" Jose Javier Reyes shared. "One person said he watched it in Glorietta, but walked in and out of the theater with a handkerchief on his face."

The three speakers, Reyes, Raymond Red and Joyce Bernal, all gave frank, honest assessments of the state of Philippine cinema—the last and apparently the most talked-about module of the seminar.

DAVID Guererro: "Sex objects will die a natural death."

While the topic was "Cinema's Cue: What's Real in Reel?," the filmmakers emphasized instead the sorry state of the country's film industry, and the need for fresh ideas and new filmmakers if it is to reach its full potential.

A MOCK presscon with Conrado de Quiros and Mike Enriquez offered students a taste of the real thing. PHOTOS: ROMY HOMILLADA

Red, who dislikes the term "indie" and prefers "alternative," confessed that his film "Anito," which he funded from his own pocket (to the tune of P350,000), is his most personally fulfilling film so far. It is being aired on cable and overseas.

Reyes glumly pointed out that we're lucky to see 50 film releases this year, while Bernal shared the hardships of working in a cliché-ridden industry (producers always want her to do love-team movies). But these filmmakers aren't fazed.

"The only way Philippine cinema can progress is if there is a movement," Red shared. Or, as Bernal said, "Don't make *takot*, let's make *baka!*"

Wanting change

Many attendees agreed afterwards that this was a highly thought-provoking seminar.

"The participants are enough proof that the youth would want something better for the country," Ria Martinez later shared. *"Hindi sila yung pwedeng ikulong sa* box. They want change and they want to make a difference."

As Mike Enriquez said earlier that day, "People always say to think out of the box. I say, 'Get out of the box!'"

Surviving Philippine media

WE asked the speakers as well as the hosts what they believe future media practitioners should keep in mind to make it in the industry.

1. **Keep your feet on the ground.** "The attention can turn you into a monster in the industry," says Rhea Santos. "Be grounded, and you'll reach greater heights."

2. **Keep giving back to the profession as much as you get from it,** even if it means messing up your schedule. "I rarely pass on talks like this," shares Mike Enriquez.

3. **Stay clean.** Personally and professionally. Being in this profession can lure you into doing drugs and excessive drinking. "Keep things in moderation; you need your energy," Conrado de Quiros warns.

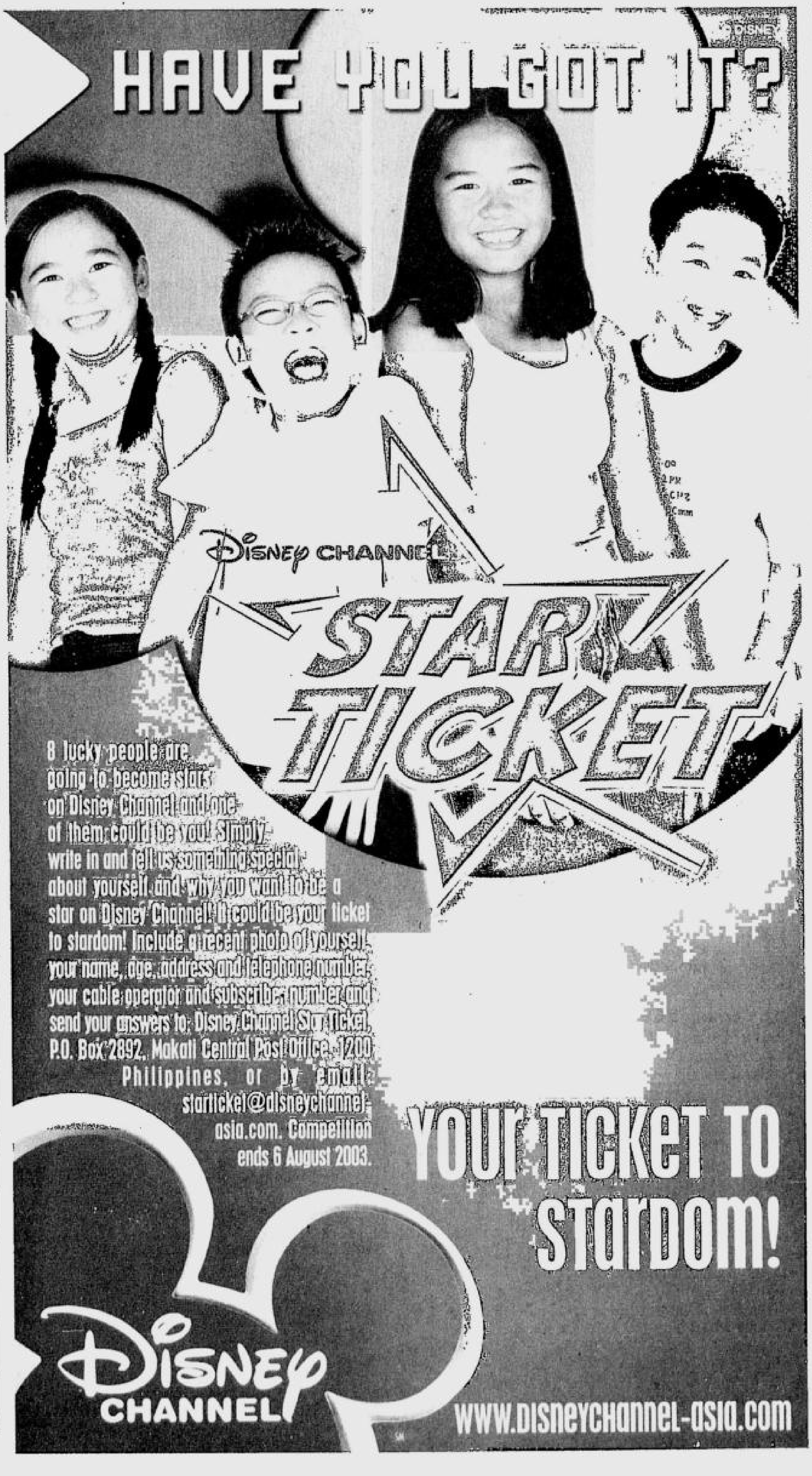
4. **Hold on to your values.** "I believe that education is a good foundation for that," says Rina Jimenez-David.

5. **Be totally honest.** "Ask yourself, 'Why are you going to make the film?'" says Raymond Red.

6. **Take disappointment as part of your stable diet.** "I find it to be a necessity in my life, not only as a filmmaker but also as an individual," says Jose Javier Reyes.

7. **Never mistake style for substance.** "I would like to see them when they finally get recognized and have the option to do mainstream. Let's see how indie they can get," Reyes says of the many poseurs out there.

8. **Stay focused,** because there are a lot of distractions along the way. "Always stick to the truth. If you get carried away, you'll lose control," says De Quiros. *Maui Reyes*



8 lucky people are going to become stars on Disney Channel and one of them could be you! Simply write in and tell us something special about yourself and why you want to be a star on Disney Channel! It could be your ticket to stardom! Include a recent photo of yourself, your name, age, address and telephone number, your cable operator and subscriber number and send your answers to: Disney Channel Star Ticket, P.O. Box 2892, Makati Central Post Office, 1200 Philippines, or by email: starticket@disneychannel-asia.com. Competition ends 6 August 2003.

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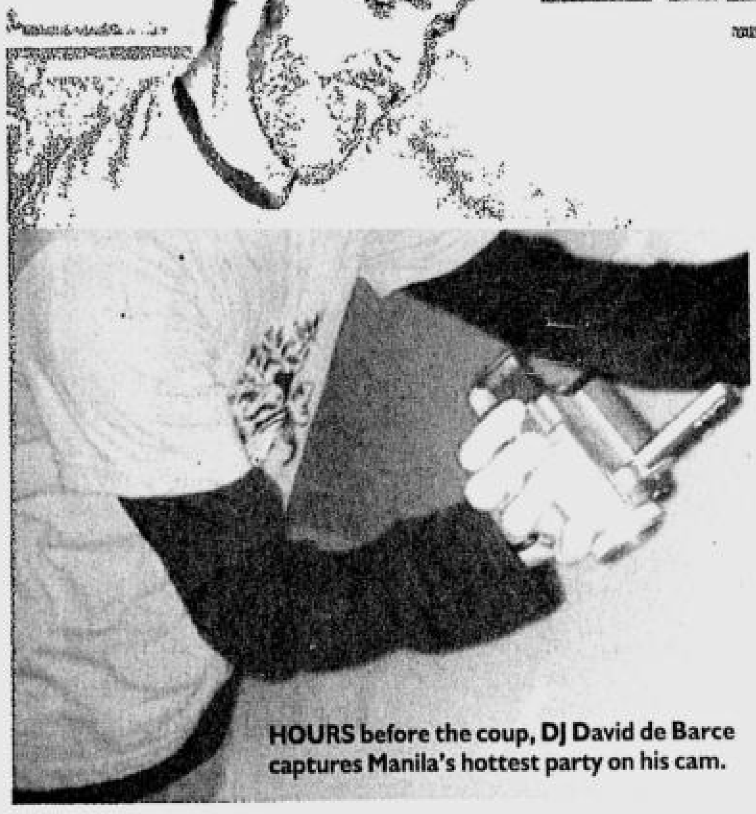

HOURS before the coup, DJ David de Barce captures Manila's hottest party on his cam.

An evening with David de Barce

Spending a few hours with the famous European DJ was an unforgettable experience for this writer

STORY ON PAGE D4

onstage 2nyt

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Mom shares weighty facts on Pediasure

Pink lips, sun-kissed cheeks and an active lifestyle not to mention a hearty appetite are every mother's gauge of their children's good health... However, every mother knows too that the numbers on their pediatrician's weighing scale may yet tell a different story.

Dr. Liza Francisco, an OB-GYN, and a mother of two, had to follow both her instinct as a mom and as a woman of medicine when faced with her daughters' weight concerns.

Kate and Cheenie

"My daughter Kate, now 4 1/2 years old is really hyperactive. When she was 6 months old, she developed constipation from drinking her formula milk. That and her active state; her weight was not improving."

"On the other hand, my youngest daughter Cheenie, who's 3 years old, was a diagnosed case of ventricular septal defect." Also called VSD, it is a condition wherein a baby is found to have a hole between the right and left ventricle of the heart. *"Again, it was at 6 months that it became more apparent that she was not gaining the ideal weight for her age"*, Dr. Francisco explains.

The Doctor is In... the house!

Being a Mom, these turn of events were definitely a cause of worry. But then, Dr. Francisco knew what needed to be done.

"Since I'm a doctor, upon seeing my daughters' growth patterns, I opted to shift them to high caloric milk." She was introduced to no less than Pediasure by her sisters, whose children were drinking Pediasure for some time.

Pediasure is a complete, balanced nutritional supplement specially formulated for the growing years of children. Pediasure is clinically-proven to provide the child's body with essential nutrients for growth as well as immunity that can reduce sick days.

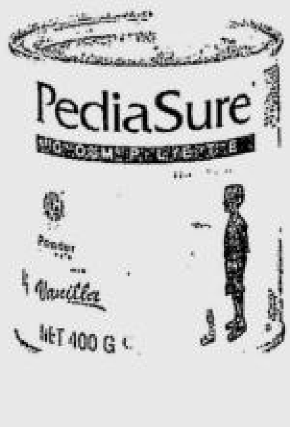
Pediasure has the highest caloric density at 30 kcal per fluid ounce. This means Pediasure is packed with the calories that result to a weight gain achieved in a shorter period of time compared to other nutritional elements.

Gaining from Pediasure •

Dr. Francisco points out that her daughters loved the taste of Pediasure. In fact, Kate was drinking 2 to 3 glasses of Pediasure a day while Cheenie would have 3 to 4 glasses a day. The weight gain was achieved in about 2 to 3 months and according to Dr. Fransisco, family and friends couldn't help but notice.

Dr. Francisco was happy that Pediasure gave her the results she wanted for her daughters. The benefit was undeniably clear. "At least even if they don't eat lots of solids, they are on Pediasure! The other thing is, I have observed that they don't get sick often" she volunteers to say.

Now, Dr. Francisco admits to even recommending Pediasure to her friends and patients. Ask your pediatrician about Pediasure today. Or call Pediasure's Nutri hotline **746-0669** Monday to Friday for free nutritional advice.



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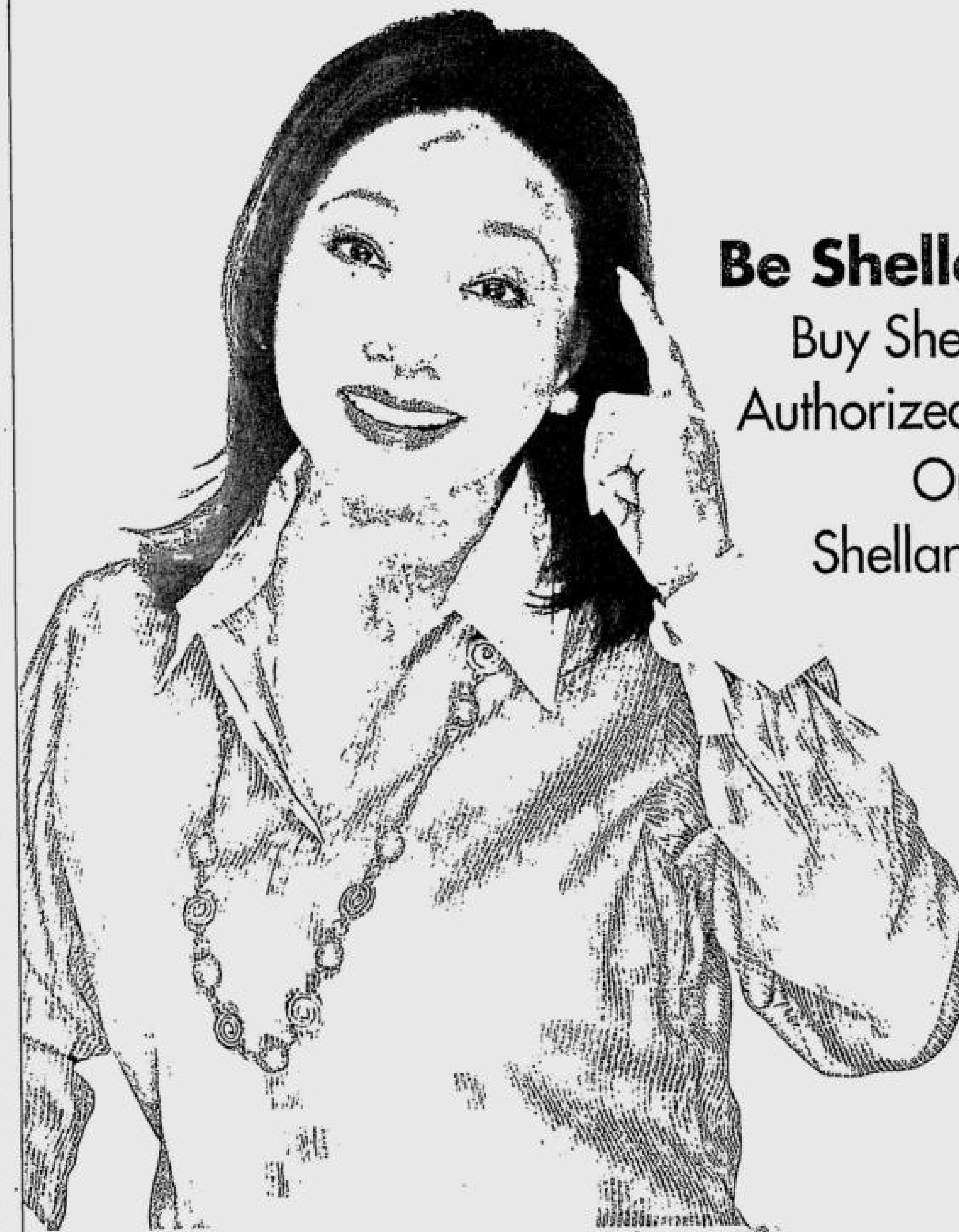

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Unlike most books for young people, Ann Brashares' novel does not shy away from dealing with serious teen issues, making it a fun, touching and instructive read

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The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants
By Ann Brashares

By Pam Pastor

THIS is a tale about four girls—Carmen, Lena, Tibby and Bridget—and the pair of nice but well-worn jeans that binds them.

The four girls fit different molds naturally. Carmen is the dreamer, Lena is the beauty, Tibby is the rebel and Bridget is the athlete. Despite the stereotypes in character, the depths of the girls' personalities are revealed as the story develops.

Carmen found the pants in a thrift shop. She bought them and kept them in her closet for a long time, until one special day, she and her friends discovered the magic of the pants.

The pants not only fit them all despite their different body types. Even better, it made them look good. So the girls, good friends that they were, decided to share the pants.

Since they were spending their summer apart, with Lena off to Greece with her parents, Carmen in South Carolina to see her dad, Bridget flying off to Baja California for soccer camp and Tibby staying at home working, they decided to keep the pants for a couple of weeks each before shipping them off to the next girl.

They came up with a list of dos and don'ts—rules they have to abide by when they're wearing the pants. Except for the no-washing part of the deal which I found pretty icky, the plan sounded pretty good.

The girls believed that the pants gave them power, and that summer, they needed all the power they could get.

Carmen had to deal with the reality that her father was about to remarry, Lena had to face the possibilities of her first romance even if it terrified her, Bridget found out what it's like to go too far with a guy she liked and Tibby befriended a dying girl.

Unlike most authors of books for young people, Ann Brashares, who I now think of as a hipper Judy Blume, does not shy away from dealing with serious teen issues such as broken homes, identity crises, sex and death.

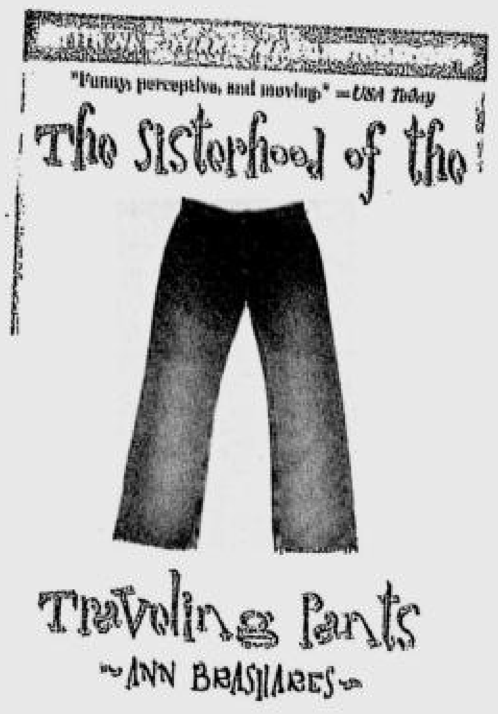
This is precisely what makes this book a juicy read even for non-adolescents. I still cannot believe it made me cry at three different parts.

The book is an easy read. Fun and touching, it manages to be intense without being too heavy. You can read it and then pass it on to your mom, your sister, your cousins and friends.

The girls, who learned the importance of drawing strength not just from the pants but from their friends and themselves, can teach everyone lessons about friendship and courage, no matter what age.

"The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" is available at PowerBooks and National Book Store outlets. The second book, "The Second Summer of the Sisterhood," is already out in the market.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



Win this book!

2BU!, National Book Store and PowerBooks would like you to be able to enjoy "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants." We are giving away three copies of this book to three lucky readers.

If you want to join, answer this question: If you were to start your own sisterhood, who would you choose as your sisters and why?

Send your answer along with your name, age, school/office and contact info to **contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph** by noon on Aug. 4.

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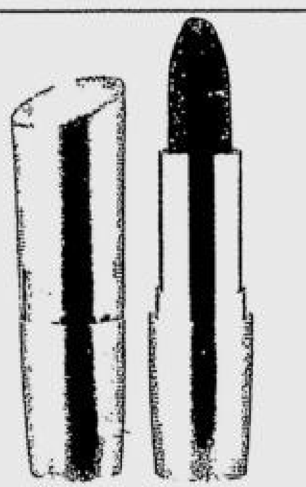

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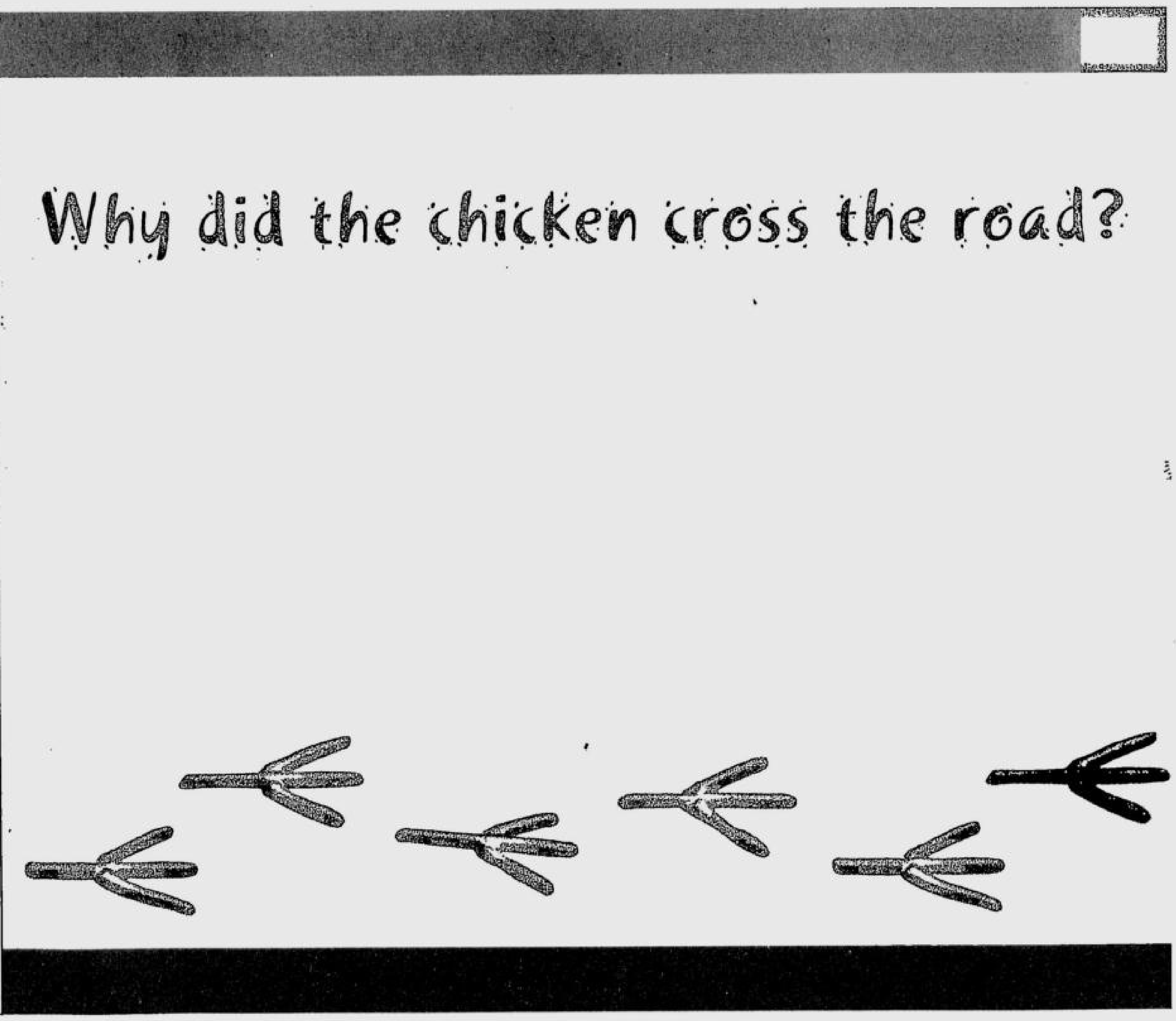
Good fats, you say? That's right. Not all fats are created equal. Some "friendly fats" in food can actually help you be healthy. Omega 3 is a type of fat that helps reduce the level of unhealthy triglycerides in the blood. Research suggests that it also prevents blood platelets from clotting and sticking to the artery walls (thus lowering the risk of a heart attack) and minimizes hardening of the arteries. Managing one's blood cholesterol, along with a healthful diet and exercise, significantly decreases the risk of heart disease-the leading cause of death among Filipino adults.

So can our bodies deal with their own demands for Omega 3? Not quite. However, take heart, because new research shows that the body can be boosted with healthy doses of Omega 3 from other sources. Here's the best news. One such source is Purefoods Chick 'N Tasty Chicken Hotdog. It is fortified with the right levels of Omega 3 to make every meal of the day, from breakfast to dinner, not just filling and yummy, but also downright healthy.

Everyone needs to take care of his heart. It is the only way to live life to the fullest. And your entire family can benefit from the healthy serving of Omega 3 in every pack of Purefoods Chick 'N Tasty Chicken Hotdog. Eaten as a stand-alone meal or mixed and matched with other food, the Omega 3 in Purefoods Chick 'N Tasty Chicken Hotdog can point you to the right way to health!

With Omega 3 in every bite of deliciously healthy Purefoods Chick 'N Tasty Chicken Hotdog, your family is definitely relishing their way to healthier hearts.



Why did the chicken cross the road?

We have winners!

THESE lucky people have bagged the prizes from last week's issue:

HBO's "Six Feet Under" promo

Tala Nabong, Karen Ang, Doods Santos, Sandra Tan, Ces Guerrero, Masy Penilla-Cortez, Chiqui Dingcong, Claire Santos, Angus Melchor and Aileen Suarez all win goodies from HBO.

Duncan Sheik CD promo

Danz Holandez, Anna Carvajal and Ina Ragragio will soon be bringing home autographed limited-edition "Daylight" promo tour CDs.

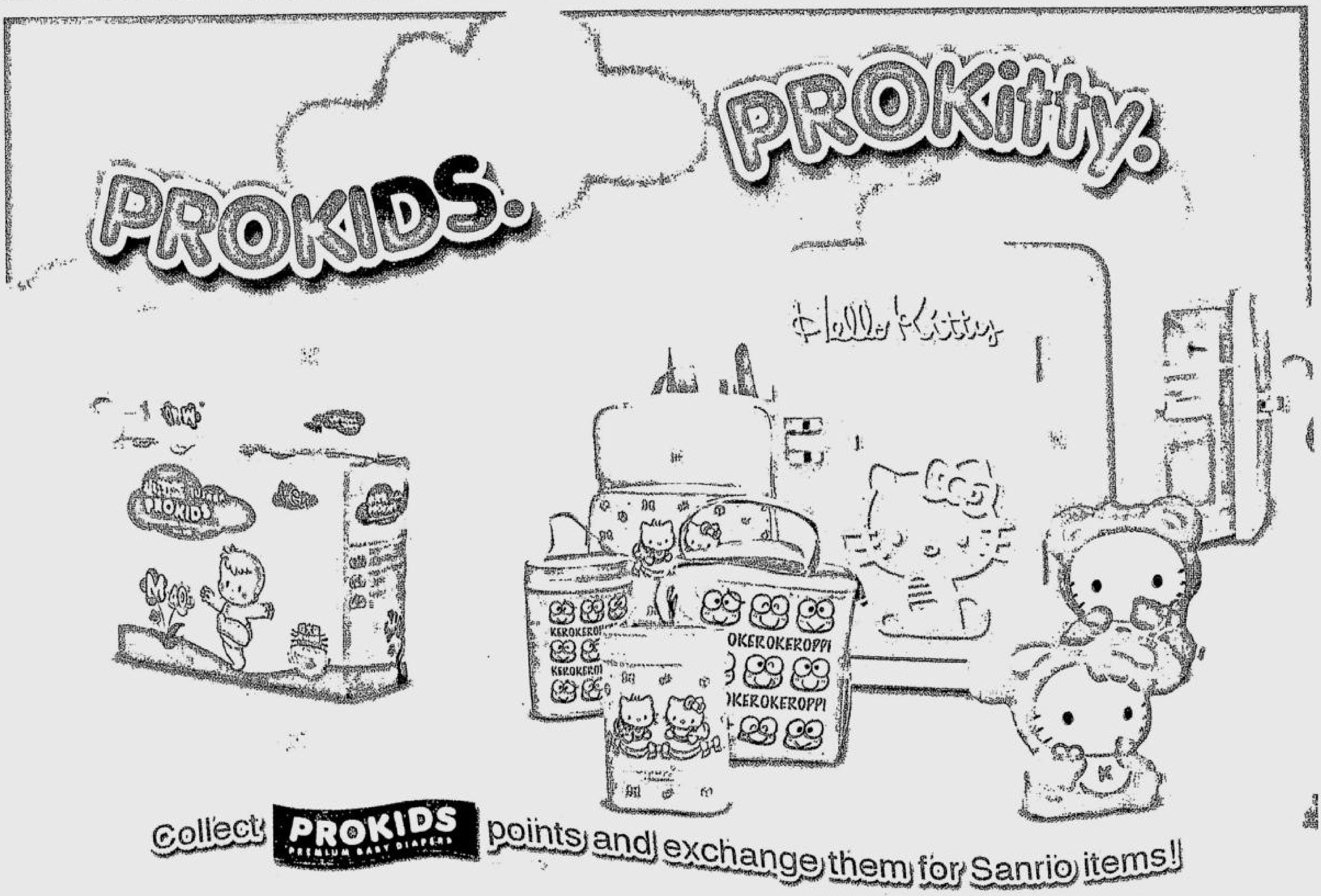
Shawn Desman CD promo

Airene T. Tamonan, Edsel Roseus Villas, Ayvi G. Alcain, Gentle Mary Ching and Francis Enrique will soon be playing Shawn Desman's CD 24/7.

Thai In a Box promo

Michelle Pardo, Vera Marie J. Gumboc, Rodrigo V. Dela Peña will soon be treating their friends to Thai In A Box with their gift certificates.

Winners may claim their prizes at the PDI Building, Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati, on Mondays, from 5 p.m. onwards. Please call 897-8808 and look for Pam or Jason before you drop by.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Redemption Booths in Supermarkets: Hi-Top Supermarket, QC • Choas, Olongapo • Magic Star, Tarlac City • Airland, Angeles City • Nacional Supermarket, San Fernando, La Union • Sunshine Supermarket, Baguio • Citimart (Caedo) Batangas City • Metro Ayala Gaisano Cebu • Gaisano Mall Davao

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2. **Unitrade Office/Sub-Distributor's Redemption Schedule:** Everyday except Sunday starting April 1 - August 14, 2003. **Gift Gate Stores and Supermarkets Redemption Schedule:** Every Fridays. Saturdays and Sundays starting April 4 - August 10, 2003
3. Prizes with their corresponding required Prokids Premium Baby Diaper label points and additional cash requirements:

ITEMS	Points + Php Added
Mobicool Mini Refrigerator	28 points + Php 800.00
Hello Kitty Diecut Pillow	10 points + Php 100.00
Dear Daniel Diecut Pillow	10 points + Php 100.00
Hello Kitty Babies Backpack	8 points + Php 200.00
Kerokerokeroppi Shoulder Bag	8 points + Php 200.00
Hello Kitty Babies Bottle Bag	4 points + Php 80.00
Kerokerokeroppi Bottle Bag	4 points + Php 80.00

4. Corresponding points per packaging are as follows: Mini pack/4's = 1/4 pt. • Big pack = 1pt. • Value pack = 2 pts.
5. Consumer may join as many times as they want.
6. Prizes may not be converted to CASH.
7. Promo period is from April 1 to August 14, 2003.

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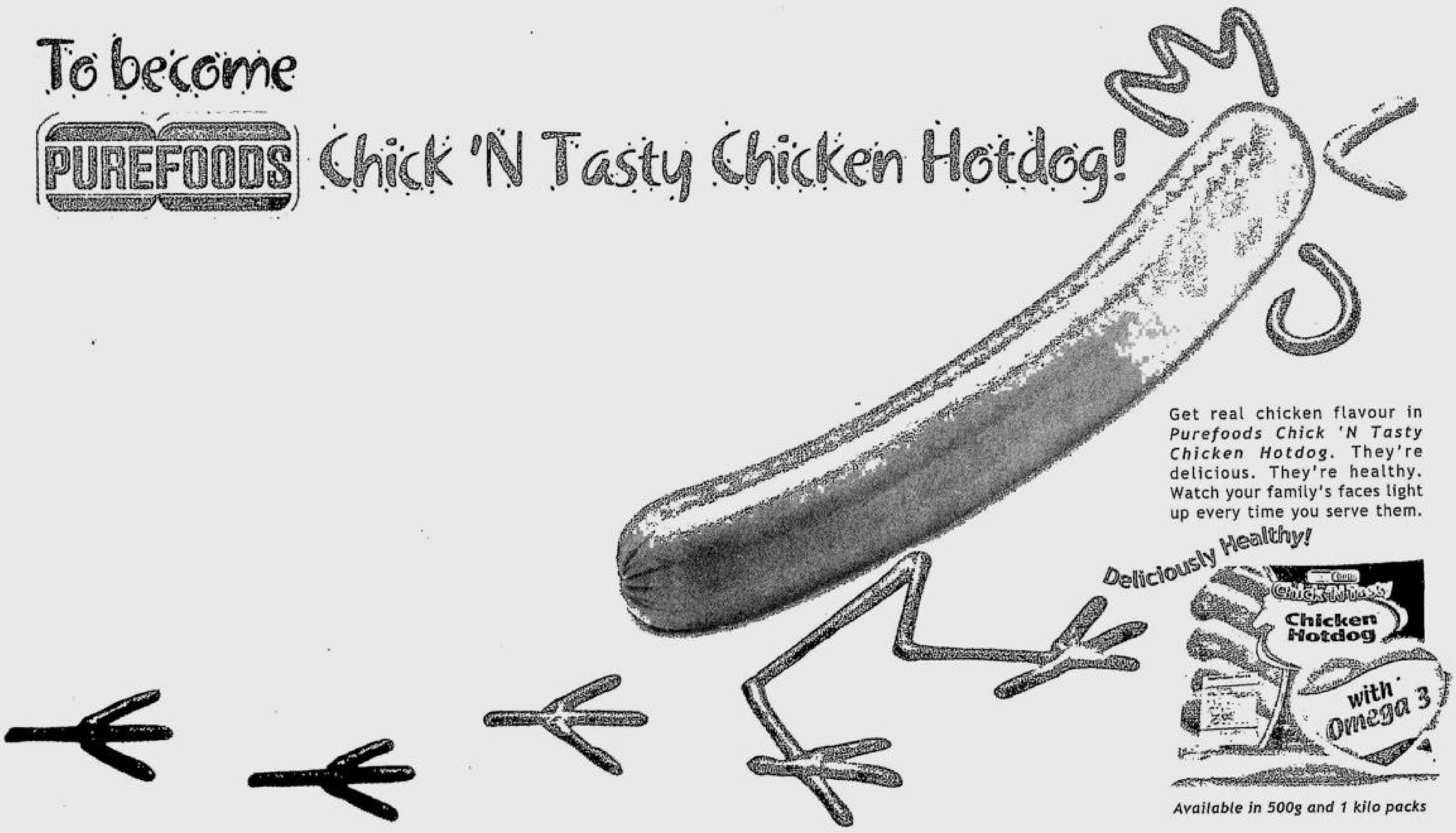

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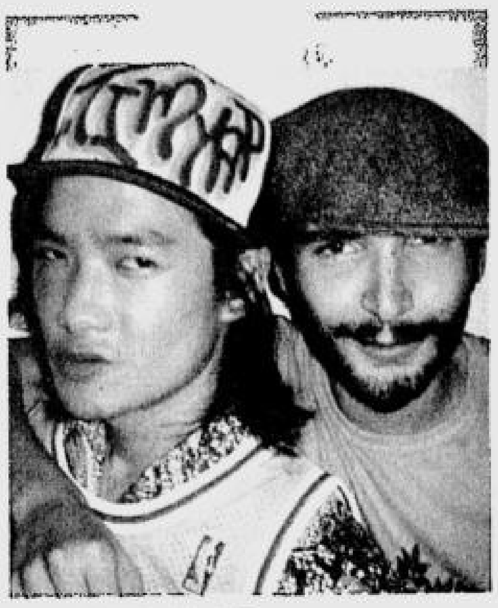
An evening with David de Barce


YAPARAZZI with de Barce

By Natalia Diaz
Photos by Tim Yap

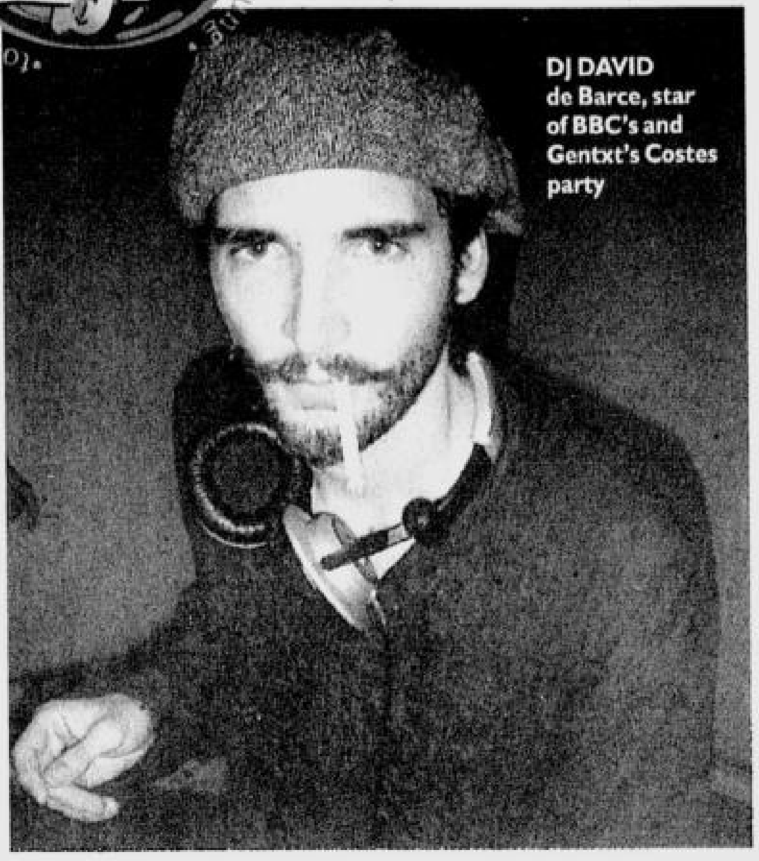
WALKING alone into a bar is not exactly a favorite practice among females, especially Filipinas.

Yet slight afflictions of paranoia and fear of strange men did not daunt me a few nights back, especially since I was totally numb from a stressful week of deadlines.

As I sat alone in a bar in Makati that night, I became aware of a presence by my side—a cool, bohemian-looking, cheerful chap sporting a goatee, khaki military jacket over a faded black T-shirt and an uber cool paperboy cap.

In a charming French accent, he asked the bartender if he had any vodka pomelo. I guess the peculiarity of such an order must have piqued a slight curiosity that manifested all over my face, because the boho-Frenchie turned to me and said, "This is Absolut-ly my favorite drink. Hello, I'm David."

A shared love of alcohol, coupled with the knowledge of some general grammatical rules of his native tongue and such key French phrases such as "cafe au lait," "salad nicoise" and "coup d'etat" made up our conversation. He asked about my day and I told him about my horrible experience with rude taxi drivers who caused me to miss a very important interview with a famous European DJ that afternoon. I then asked him how long he had been in Manila and it turned out that he had just flown in a day before, yet went straight to Malate from the airport to check out the scene. We then delved into the all-important issues of music and literature, hankering for the golden days of the '70s, with the euphonies of The Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, The Doors and the Blaxploitation soundtracks. Then we discussed a bit of French literature, as he was well-versed with the works of Rimbaud and confessed to be a big fan of Guillaume Apollinaire. (I must admit that nothing turns me on than a man who can quote from Camus.)


DJ DAVID de Barce, star of BBC's and Gentxt's Costes party

Sea lover

David mentioned that he was slated to head off to Boracay in a few days, excited to see the water, adding that his all-time favorite icon was Captain Nemo. "Not your fellow compatriot Jacques Cousteau?" I joked, to which he replied with a twinkle in his eye, "I like Captain Nemo because he was a bad boy!" I found out that we also shared a love for surfing. He learned it in Bali and was very interested in trying out the surfing spots in Siargao. He then showed me his tribal tattoo snaked around his ankle, a beautiful design of Celtic, Aztec and Maori influences, serving as a remembrance of places he had been to. In fact, he was already reserving the space above it for a tattoo he planned to get in the Philippines.

Hip place

I then asked him if he wanted to check out a hip new place in Makati—The Smoking Section Outside Every Bar in Makati. So we met up with his friends to share a stick or three.

David introduced me to his friends Jonathan, his business partner, and Pablo, who had just flown in from Bali on a whim when he heard the news that his friends were swinging by Manila. Beneath a cloud of gray smoke, I was entertained by these three French characters uncannily reminiscent of the Marx Brothers, talking up a storm, smiling at every passing female and greeting people as if they had lived in Manila all their lives.

I then saw Manong *taho* pass by and felt the urge to buy one and let these three Frenchies try out my favorite late-night dessert, of which they were all too happy to partake of, combined with nicotine of course. I asked David what his favorite cigarettes were and he declared, "My favorite cigarette was the one I shared with a beautiful woman!" Then he told me about the time Milla Jovovich bummed a smoke from him. I was already wondering whether those funky pomelo concoctions had started fueling latent delusions, but I was distracted by all these people around us who kept snapping photos of David. Then I glanced at the nametag neatly sewn on his military shirt—"De Barce."

That was the moment I realized what an ignorant fool I was. The whole time, I was chatting with David de Barce, resident DJ of the world-renowned Hotel Costes!

Celebrated DJ

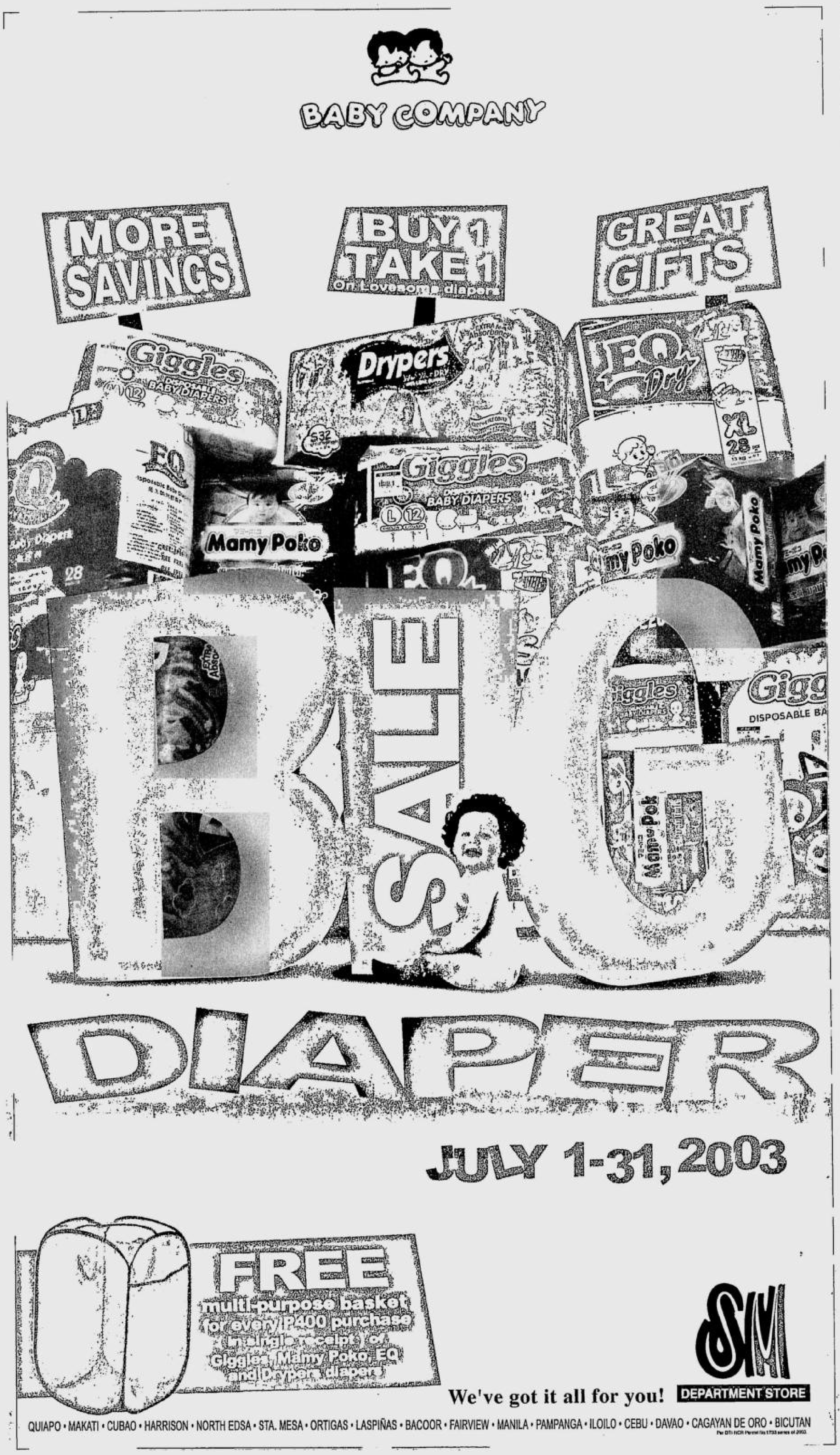
Suddenly, I didn't feel too cool about having a plastic cup half-full of *taho* in my hands, especially knowing now that David had hobnobbed with the likes of Robert De Niro, Milla Jovovich, and other celebs who grace the stylish halls of Hotel Costes in Paris. I was suddenly struck mute knowing that the guy I was unleashing my anxieties on was the current heir apparent of Stephane Pompougnac, the man behind the celebrated Costes compilations. Yet David's laid-back attitude and easygoing vibe put me at ease once again. At least I didn't subject him to such orthodox, press-predictable questions such as "So, tell me about your music!"

Which of course, I eventually asked him about anyway. He professes his biggest influence, in terms of career orientation, is Jose Padilla of the renowned Cafe del Mar series. David had DJ'd in Barcelona and Ibiza for a few years, before eventually checking in as a resident at Hotel Costes in Paris. He thanks his predecessor Stephane for elevating the Hotel Costes name to international status, and he aspires to eventually coming up with his own music not necessarily dependent on the Costes seal.

"When people ask me about what kind of music I play, I just say that I like sharing beautiful music," he said. Influenced by '70s classics and the euphonies of electronica, he comes up with a sound that is neither fist-pumping hard dance nor sedative-like music. "I love it not only when young people but also those who are 50 years old come to me and tell me that they really enjoy my music," shared David.

More bohemian than big-headed, he possesses an infectious, adventurous spirit, the kind that drove him to say "yes" on a whim to play in Manila by the city's groupe *du jour*, Novalounge advocates Big Ben Collective or BBC. David admitted that some friends had been worried about the country's safety, but he was not worried at all, saying his visit to Manila is a new experience to relish. I assured him, though, that he was safely tucked away in the heart of the country's business district.

As the night wound down, I finally told David that I had to go home, but expressed my excitement at listening to his set the following night. Flashing a boyish, spirited smile, he replied, "It will be a night of beautiful music."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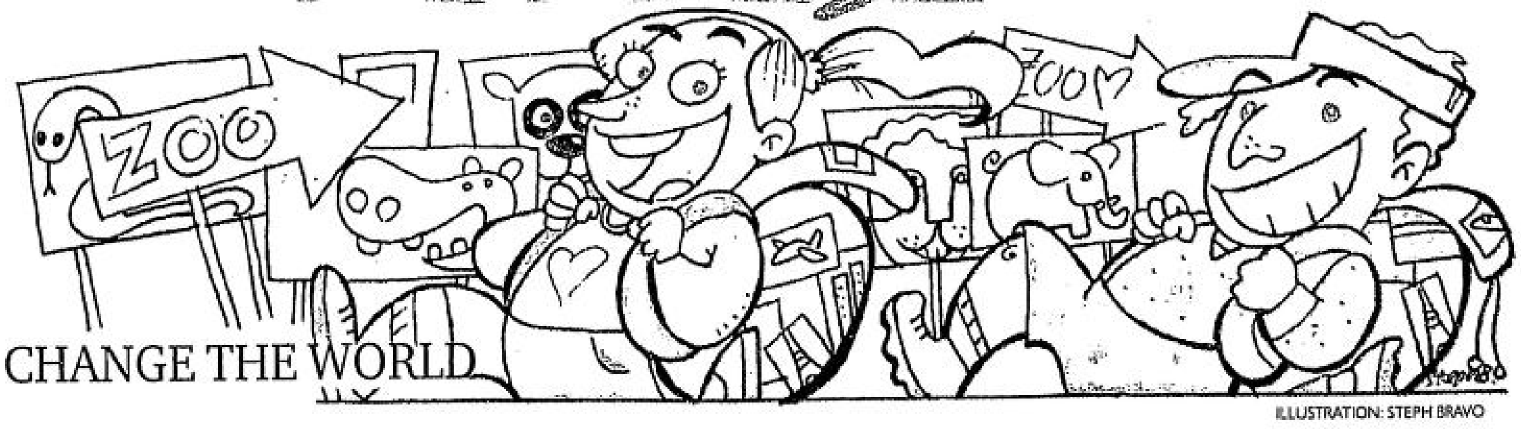

CHANGE THE WORLD

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Backpacking from zoo to zoo

By Anne Rose A. Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent

MATHEW "Mat" Van Lierop and Laura Ewart-Phipps have backpacked their way to several zoos around the world, drawn by the call for environmental preservation. Both based in South Africa, Van Lierop is the enrichment coordinator at the Johannesburg Zoo while Ewart-Phipps works for Complete Zoo Concepts Pty. (Ltd), a company offering consultancy services in zoo design, staff training and housing of exotic animals.

They came to Manila on the invitation of MyZoo, a local youth organization that received national recognition recently for its environmental efforts.

While here, they promoted enrichment, an environmental program that aims to make zoos less stressful for animals by stimulating their senses.

At the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center and Manila Zoo, for instance, the duo and MyZoo volunteers strung wood the size of Lego blocks as playthings for the birds in the aviary and swings for the monkeys.

2bU! talked to Van Lierop and Ewart-Phipps before they left for Singapore's Jurong Bird Park and the Night Safari.

What sparked your interest in animals and the whole environmental effort?

Laura: I grew up in a farm, so I loved being with animals for as long as I can remember. I actually worked in an office for a while and just couldn't cope being there... I realized that I had to do something that had to do with animals.

Mat: For me it was a similar thing. I grew up in a large property with a lot of animals. During holidays we used to go to the bush and saw a lot of animals in the wild. Since high school I was a volunteer at the zoo doing stuff like enrichment and helping out. I went to university and was a volunteer for nearly 10 years. That was (when I) realized I liked working in the zoo

Traveling and going to zoos—your job is cool.

M: In a way, it's a good excuse to see lots of places, learn and share ideas. You don't just get to work with animals but also with people—you kind of get the best of both worlds.

L: You see a certain species of birds and they're sitting in their cages and they don't have anything.

They look bored. You give them the tiniest of things and then you turn around and see them show enthusiasm. It's like their whole life changes and that makes you feel so much better inside. You think, "Wow, I made a difference."

Do you encounter things that you don't like?

L: I hate the pet trade. I think people consider things cute and fun to keep when they're small, but then, after a while, they don't want anything more to do with it. That's how we end up with problematic animals. People really need to be educated about wild animals not being pets.

M: For me, its inconsiderate visitors in the zoo. People throw rubbish in the zoo, tease the animals, and feed the animals the wrong food.

Comment on the environmental situation in the Philippines.

M: Manila Zoo has improved a lot since the last time I was here. People are beginning to wake up and realize, really, what a fantastic country the Philippines is in terms of biodiversity. I think that's what Filipinos should be proud of. The great thing about zoos is they're great places to educate people about exactly why they shouldn't pollute the environment, litter or buy a hornbill as a pet in the market.

A lot of people want to help in the environmental effort but aren't sure how to start. What is the first step they can take?

M: I think the first step is awareness and doing simple things that can be done at home. For instance, turning the tap off when you brush your teeth so you don't waste water. They can join environmental organizations like MyZoo.

For young people, it's a great thing because it's being outdoors and doing something constructive.

L: They can read books or watch TV programs on wildlife so they can realize how amazing nature is and see how it all fits together.

Where do you see yourselves in five years? What's next for Mat and Laura?

L: Maybe in the Philippines? I see myself still traveling a lot, based maybe in East Asia. The Philippines has a world of species that we would never have back home or would never see. If we ever get one we have to know how to (care for it) and be able to share that information.

M: Still being really involved in meaningful conservation projects education. For me, it's making a significant difference in the world that's really important.

For more information on Van Lierop and Ewart-Phipps, e-mail enrichment@myzoo.org. Visit MyZoo's website: www.myzoo.com.ph and e-mail myzoo@rescueteam.com.

E-mail the author at elicano_ar@yahoo.com

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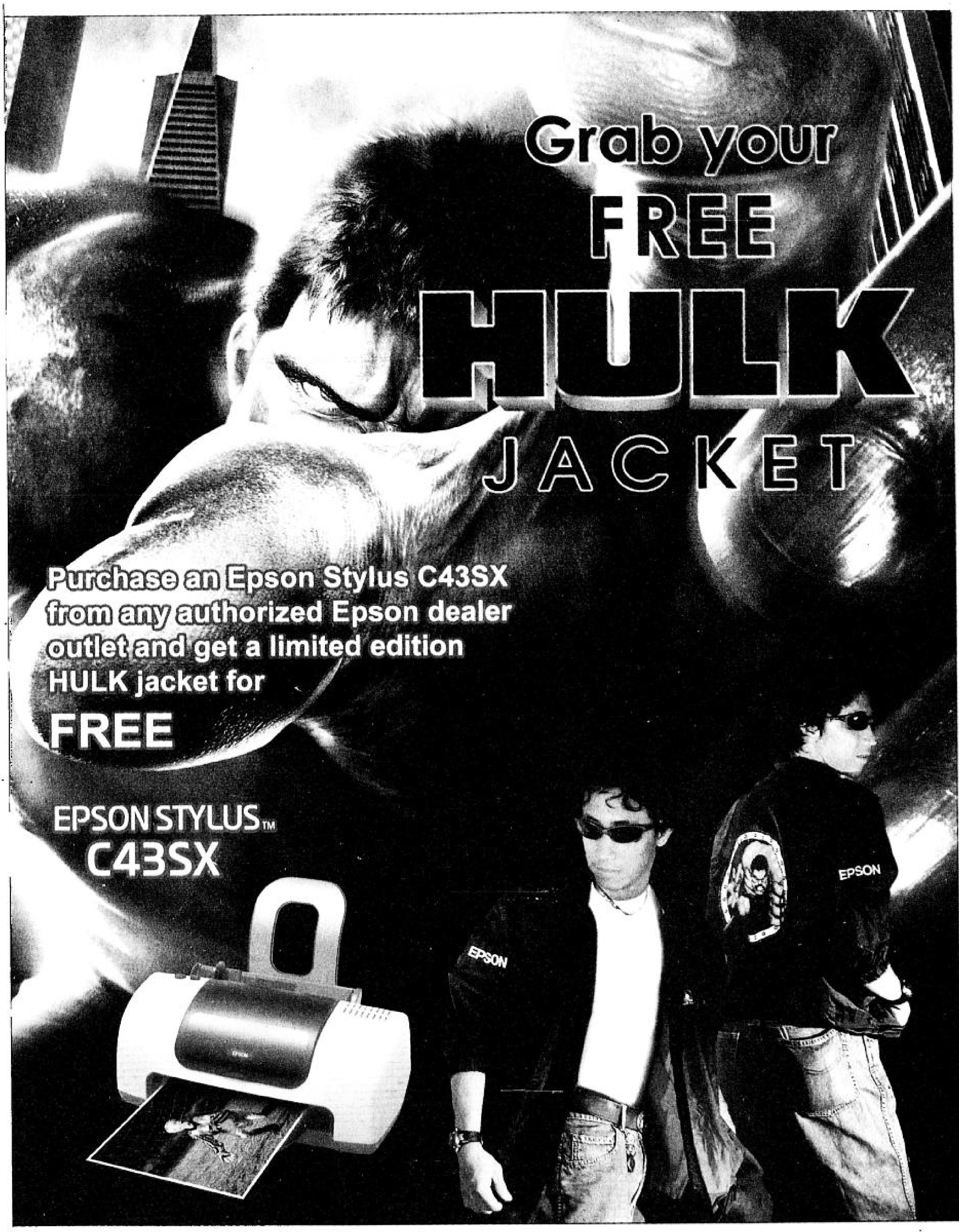
EPSON
THE POWER TO CREATE



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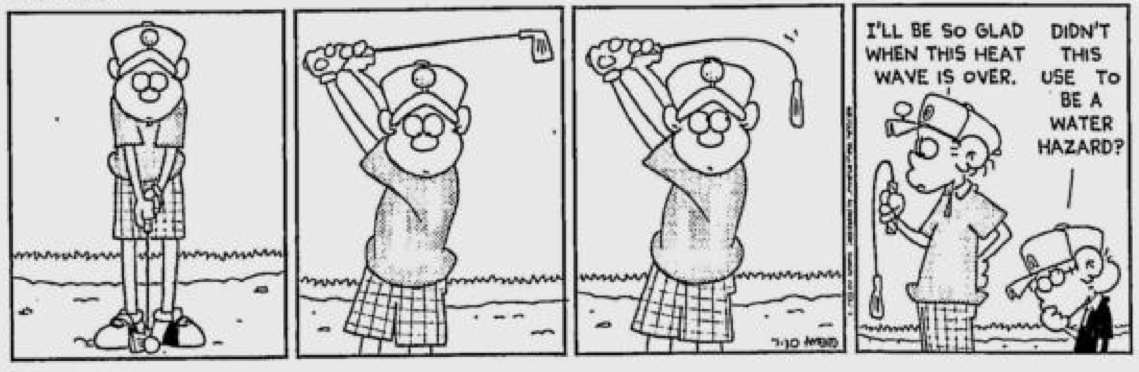
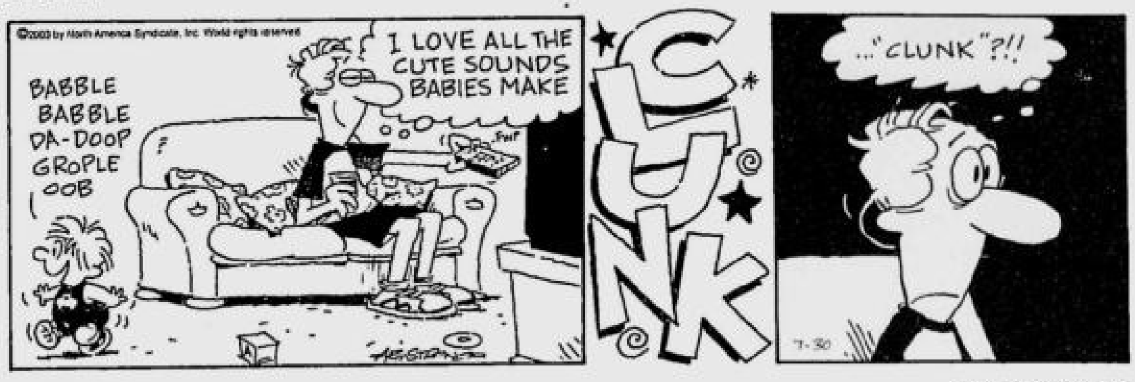
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I'LL BE SO GLAD WHEN THIS HEAT WAVE IS OVER.
DIDN'T THIS USE TO BE A WATER HAZARD?
7-10 AMEND

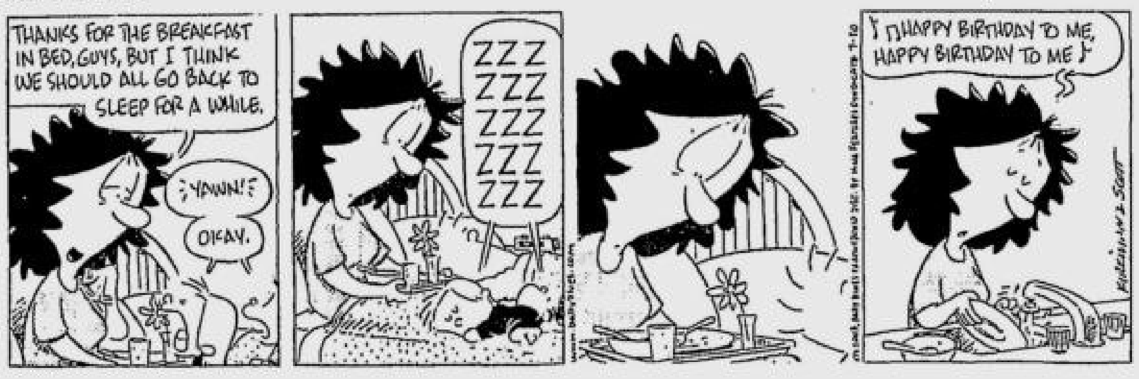
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


©2003 by North America Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved
BABBLE BABBLE DA-DOOP GROPLE OOB
I LOVE ALL THE CUTE SOUNDS BABIES MAKE
CLUNK
..."CLUNK"?!!
7-30

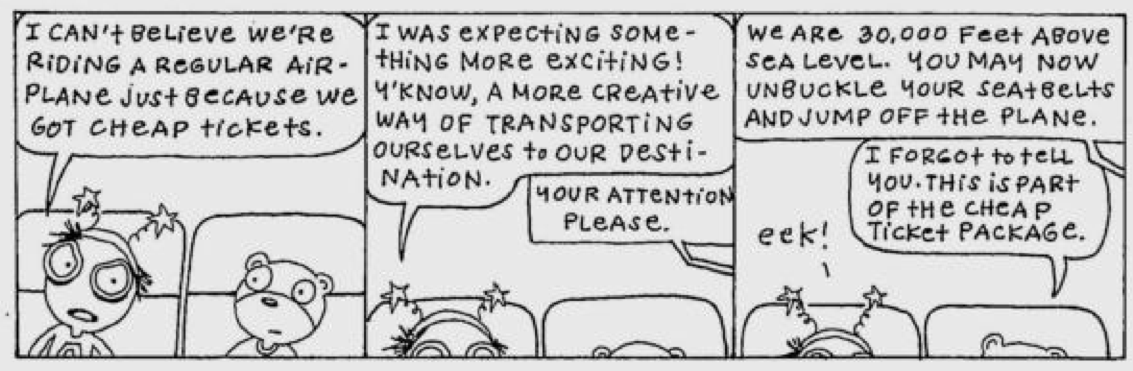
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THANKS FOR THE BREAKFAST IN BED, GUYS, BUT I THINK WE SHOULD ALL GO BACK TO SLEEP FOR A WHILE.
YAWN!
OKAY.
ZZZ ZZZ ZZZ ZZZ ZZZ
♪HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME, HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME♪
7-10

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I CAN't Believe we're RIDING A REGULAR AIR-PLANE just Because we GOT CHEAP tickets.
I WAS expecting SOMEthing More exciting! Y'KNOW, A MORE CREATIVE WAY OF TRANSPORTING OURSELVES to OUR DESTINATION.
YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE.
We ARE 30,000 Feet Above sea Level. YOU MAY NOW UNBUCKLE YOUR SEATBELTS AND JUMP OFF the PLANE.
eek!
I FORGOT to tell YOU. THIS is PART OF the CHEAP Ticket PACKAGE.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Others find you attractive and sensuous. Personally, you're decisive and focused on what you want. You are an earthy Leo, and you express yourself forcefully in a direct manner. You have charismatic leadership abilities. Others know they can rely on you. Your closest relationships are highlighted this year.
Birthdate of: Arnold Schwarzenegger, actor/producer; Laurence Fishburne, actor; Lisa Kudrow, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good time to ask yourself how you can improve your relationships with children, as well as your romantic liaison with someone.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): What can you do to improve your home and family scene? This New Moon urges you to look at how you can enrich your domestic situation.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is the perfect time to study your own style of communicating with others. Do you just assume that you will be understood? Decide to be very clear in all your communications.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Give serious thought to what really matters in your life. If you know what matters, then you will know what to protect and guard. Surprisingly, many people don't know this.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): With both the Sun and Moon in your sign, this is the perfect time to think about ways to improve your appearance and your style of relating to others. It's time to turn over a new leaf.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You are beginning to understand that some things are best left unsaid. As the old saying goes, "Discretion is the better part of valor."

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good time to ask yourself what kind of friendship you offer to others. Would you like to have yourself for a friend? Friendship is important; think about the role you play with your friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's important to know your long-term life direction. Do not let immediate gratification or a bright, shiny object deflect you from your true goals. Give everything a sober, serious thought.

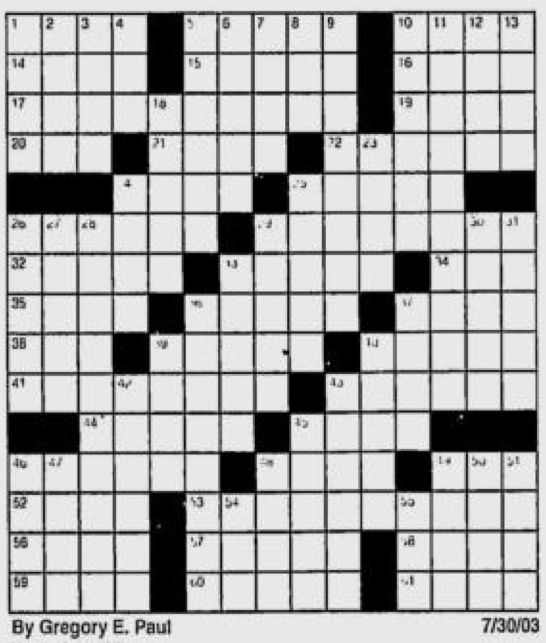
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're giving much thought to religion, politics and philosophical ideas. You might be thinking more about other countries and distant places.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You cannot avoid it—you have to come to terms with the values of someone else. This means that at some point you will have to compromise as well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Because friendship is important to you, make the effort to smooth over troubled waters with someone close to you. Friction always creates unhappiness and stress.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Think of one or two things that you can do to begin to improve your health. Choose one thing to begin and one thing to stop doing.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Gregory E. Paul
Scottdale, PA
7/30/03

ACROSS
1 Married woman
5 At one's wits' end
10 Open some
14 By mouth
15 Ms. Massey
16 Fellini film
17 Pavement breaker
19 Bok __ (Chinese cabbage)
20 Toronto's prov.
21 Slaughter of baseball
22 Word of gratitude
24 Acronym before World Series
25 Butter maker
26 Sweet-talk
29 Grotesque gutter spout
32 Exxon rival
33 Remedies
34 Cleveland pro
35 Expansive
36 Chess side
37 Spouse
38 Afr. nation
39 Hotel staffers
40 Penny-pincher
41 Vegas wheel
43 Salad leafstalk
44 Buenos __
45 Traveled on horseback
46 Hunting dog
48 Refrain syllables
49 Garden plot
52 Section
53 Typical male student
56 Words of realization
57 Beneath
58 Sewing line
59 "... __ the twain shall meet"
60 Transmission components
61 Cancel

DOWN
1 "Barney Miller" character
2 Teheran's place
3 Bit of data
4 North American reindeer
5 Groom-to-be
6 Roper and Lincoln
7 DeLuise and DiMaggio
8 French one
9 Potential hole-in-one hole
10 Jockey on five Derby winners
11 Cornpone
12 Out of control
13 Shafts of light
18 Phone greeting
23 Embraces
24 Night: pref.
25 Golfers' rides
26 Spelunker
27 Socialist Italian P.M. (1992-93)
28 National Park in California
29 Lead
30 Subsequent
31 __ once in a while
33 Vouchers
36 Canteen
37 Unit of distance
39 Scant
40 Piano control
42 Stretcher
43 Turns red
45 Track star
46 Whirl around
47 Let up
48 Mother of Clytemnestra
49 __ around the block
50 Yikes!
51 Brief sample
54 Five before six
55 Baton Rouge sch.

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

O	K	R	A	■	A	G	A	S	S	I	■	T	S	K
C	L	E	M	■	P	I	S	T	O	N	■	R	E	O
H	U	N	T	A	N	D	P	E	C	K	■	A	R	P
E	T	A	■	T	O	E	S	■	■	P	O	N	E	S
R	E	L	A	T	E	■	■	N	E	A	R	S	■	■
■	■	■	B	L	A	C	K	A	N	D	B	L	U	E
C	A	B	L	E	■	H	U	M	E	■	■	A	F	R
A	G	R	E	E	■	O	D	A	■	E	L	T	O	N
R	I	A	■	■	T	R	O	T	■	R	E	E	S	E
L	O	N	G	A	N	D	S	H	O	R	T	■	■	■
■	■	D	A	R	N	S	■	■	P	A	S	T	A	S
P	A	N	D	A	■	■	T	M	E	N	■	E	L	I
E	V	A	■	B	E	C	K	A	N	D	C	A	L	L
R	I	M	■	L	A	H	O	R	E	■	A	S	E	A
U	S	E	■	E	R	A	S	E	R	■	B	E	N	S

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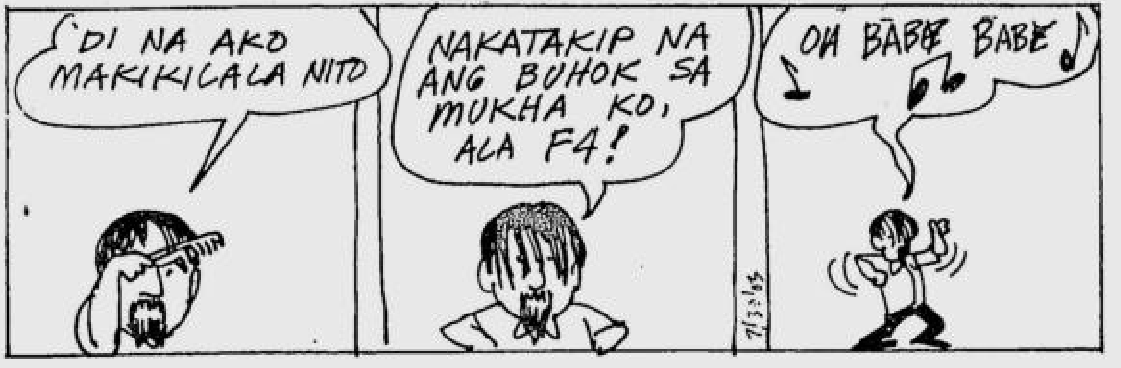
7/30/03

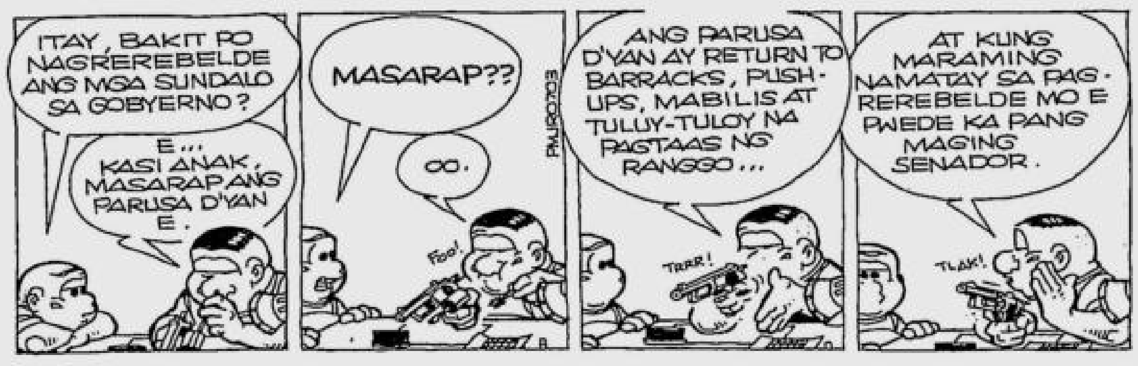
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'DI NA AKO MAKIKILALA NITO
NAKATAKIP NA ANG BUHOK SA MUKHA KO, ALA F4!
OH BABE BABE ♪
7-31-03

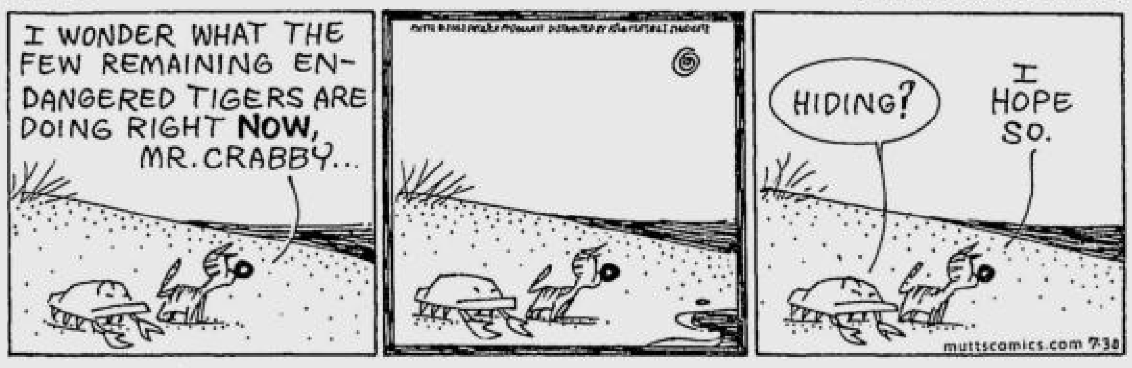
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ITAY, BAKIT PO NAGREREBELDE ANG MGA SUNDALO SA GOBYERNO?
E... KASI ANAK, MASARAP ANG PARUSA D'YAN E.
MASARAP??
OO.
FOO!
PMJR0703
ANG PARUSA D'YAN AY RETURN TO BARRACKS, PUSH-UPS, MABILIS AT TULUY-TULOY NA PAGTAAS NG RANGGO...
TRRR!
AT KUNG MARAMING NAMATAY SA PAGREREBELDE MO E PWEDE KA PANG MAGING SENADOR.
TLAK!

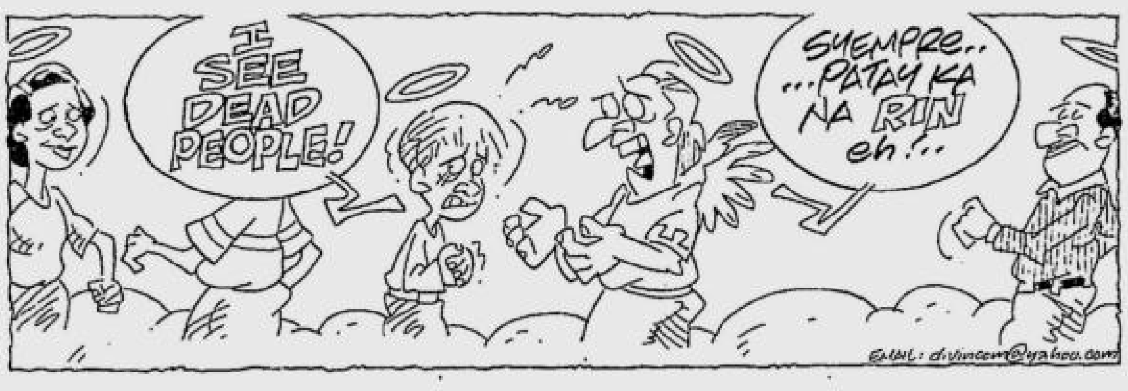
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I WONDER WHAT THE FEW REMAINING ENDANGERED TIGERS ARE DOING RIGHT NOW, MR. CRABBY...
HIDING?
I HOPE SO.
muttscomics.com 7-30

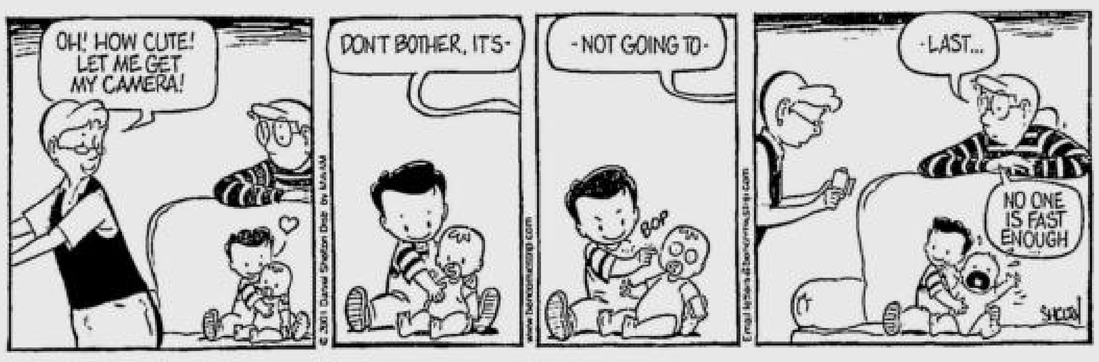
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I SEE DEAD PEOPLE!
SUEMPRE.. ...PATAY KA NA RIN eh!..
EMAIL: divincom@yahoo.com

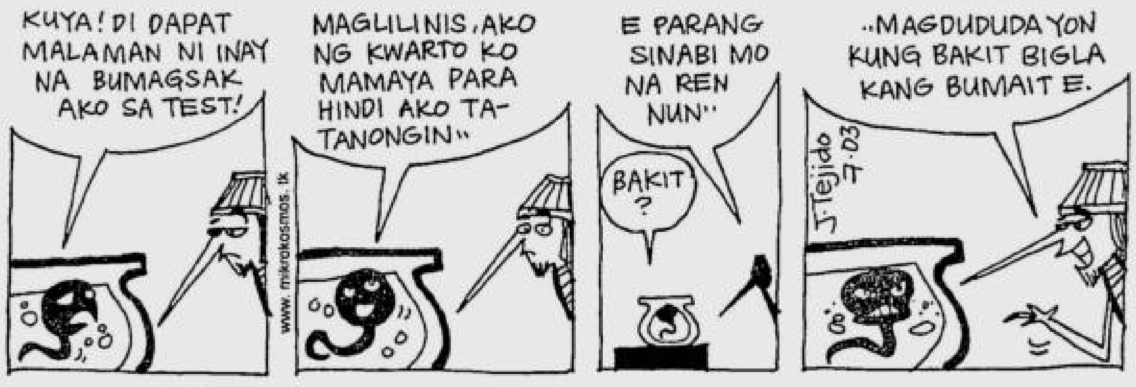
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OH! HOW CUTE! LET ME GET MY CAMERA!
DON'T BOTHER, IT'S-
-NOT GOING TO-
BOP
-LAST...
NO ONE IS FAST ENOUGH
SHELTON

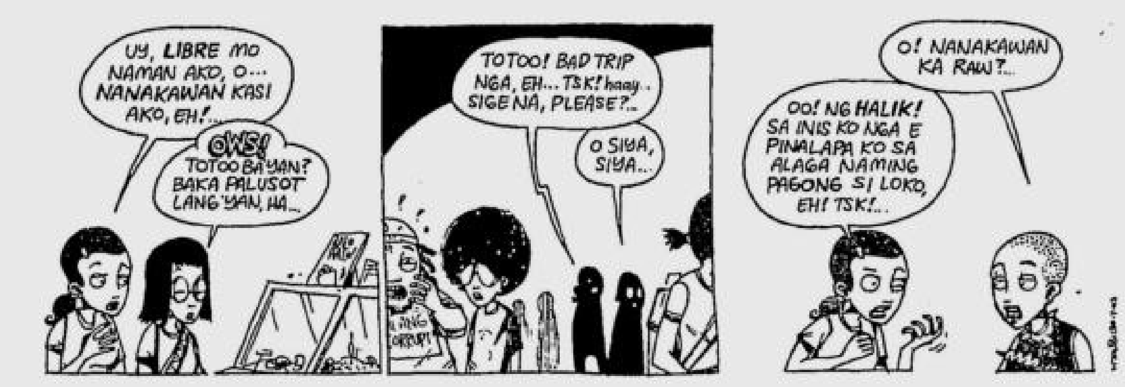
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KUYA! DI DAPAT MALAMAN NI INAY NA BUMAGSAK AKO SA TEST!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
MAGLILINIS, AKO NG KWARTO KO MAMAYA PARA HINDI AKO TATANONGIN..
E PARANG SINABI MO NA REN NUN..
BAKIT?
J. Tejido 7-03
..MAGDUDUDA YON KUNG BAKIT BIGLA KANG BUMAIT E.

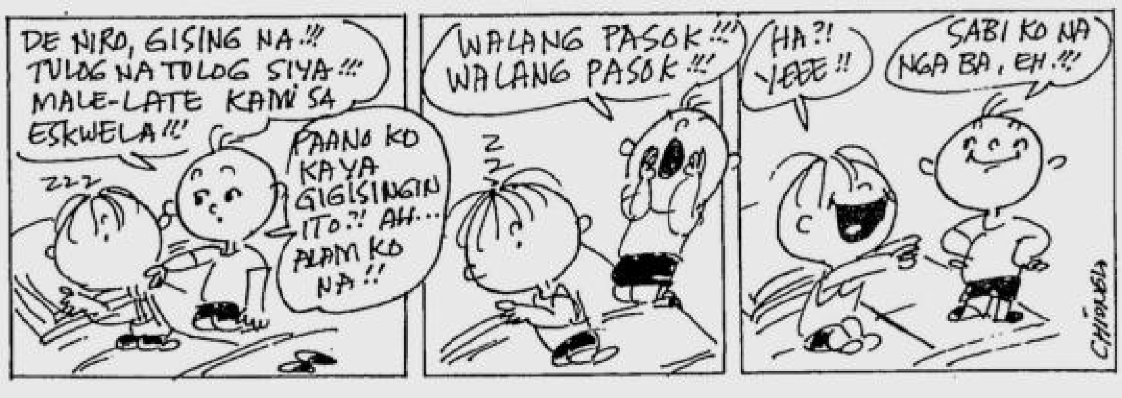
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY, LIBRE MO NAMAN AKO, O... NANAKAWAN KASI AKO, EH!...
OWS! TOTOO BA 'YAN? BAKA PALUSOT LANG 'YAN, HA...
TOTOO! BAD TRIP NGA, EH... TSK! haay.. SIGE NA, PLEASE?...
O SIYA, SIYA...
O! NANAKAWAN KA RAW?...
OO! NG HALIK! SA INIS KO NGA E PINALAPA KO SA ALAGA NAMING PAGONG SI LOKO, EH! TSK!...

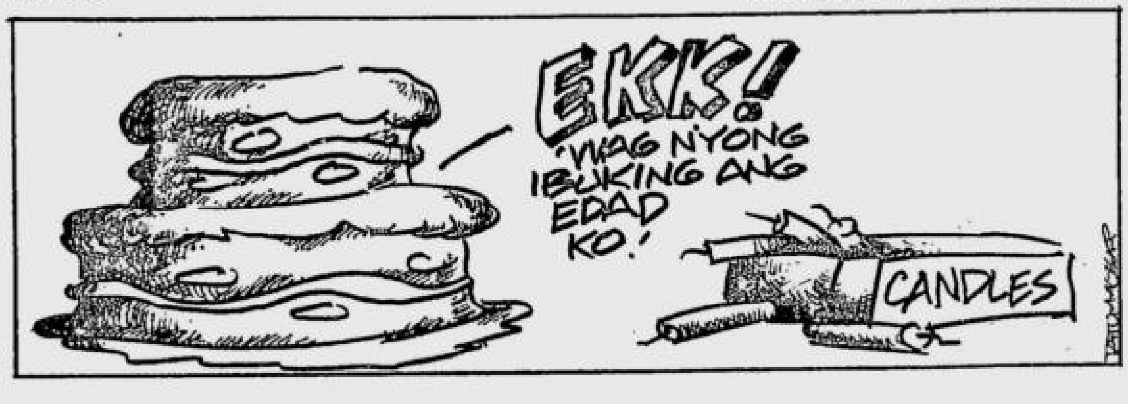
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, GISING NA!!! TULOG NA TULOG SIYA!!! MALE-LATE KAMI SA ESKWELA!!!
ZZZ
PAANO KO KAYA GIGISINGIN ITO?! AH... ALAM KO NA!!
WALANG PASOK!!! WALANG PASOK!!!
HA?! YEEE!!
SABI KO NA NGA BA, EH!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


EKK!
'WAG N'YONG IBUKING ANG EDAD KO!
CANDLES

She lets her boyfriend decide all the time

Niño Mark Sablan
& September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Mark,

Me and my girlfriend eat out everyday. We've been doing this for the past three years now and I recently realized that I always end up choosing the restaurant. Whenever I ask her for her choice, she just tells me that wherever I want to go is fine. This behavior is starting to tick me off. I enjoy making the decision sometimes, but it gets annoying when I realize that my partner is too blank to suggest something as simple. What should I do?

RAYMOND MARINO

Looks like you're gonna die of hunger if you let her do the deciding, huh? It may seem flattering and so macho to know that she entrusts you with such decision-making, but such one-sidedness is a crystal-clear indication of inequality and unfairness. I don't care if she's too picky or too bored or too submissive or too shy. Does she know that she's acting like a slave? Hey, it's fun to switch roles sometimes.

Asking her "saan" every two seconds may just bring forth endless sighs of "...Ikaw" which could trigger a bloody mess in the mall, so it might be wise to just abuse her opinion-less state and go wherever your esophagus desires. Do it in a super-superior or macho master way. Such arrogant execution will hopefully bring on an argument that will lead her to want to have it her way—sometimes, or better yet, all the time. *Mabuhay ang* reverse psychology!

If all else fails, be the sweetie pie that you are and just go wherever you think she wants to go.

MARK

Two words: Tough love.

Ask her for the umpteenth time where the two of you will eat. If her reply is, as what Mark has accurately transcribed, still "...Ikaw," blast her off with all the annoyance that has been building up inside you for the past three years.

I'm only half-kidding, of course, but if you'll continue waiting for her to wake up and become more assertive, imaginative and ingenious without any external prodding, chances are you'll develop ulcers first before any such miracle will happen.

You have been a couple for three years. It's high time that any one of you is already able to open up and point out the things about your partner that drive you crazy—or, in your case, hungry. No, that is not nagging, nor is it cruel nitpicking. That is simply trying to improve the relationship without going through unnecessary bulls--t. Besides, it will also be for her own good if you let her know how frustrating it feels to be her eating companion. If it's difficult enough for her to pick a restaurant, what more if she's given heavier situations to decide on, right?

SEP

Don't know where to eat? E-mail the writers at markandsep@yahoo.com

No screaming guitar riffs, just pure, soulful music

By Pam Pastor

WITH acoustic acts like Paolo Santos, Nyoy Volante and Jimmy Bondoc invading the music scene, more and more Pinoys are developing a taste for acoustic music.

That's music with no screaming guitar riffs, no angry drum beats and no repetitive electronic rhythms, just the clear fluid flow of melodies that sound like something you can make in your own living room—if you're that good.

The seemingly unquenchable thirst for this kind of raw, soulful music is exemplified in countless Kazaa downloads, radio requests and acoustic gigs and concerts that pack them in rain or shine.

Warner Music Philippines has responded to this phenomenon with "Almost Kinda Acoustic," a compilation of acoustic hits and pop-rock songs from various popular artists.

This CD plays like a mix tape you'd want your crush to hand over to you

almostkindaacoustic
a.k.a.

The CD begins with the acoustic version of Edwin McCain's "I'll Be," followed by a live version of Matchbox Twenty's hit "Unwell."

By putting together this generation's favorites like Indigo Girls' "Power of Two," Sarah McLachlan's "Adia" and Oasis' "Wonderwall" with new hits like Jason Mraz's "Sleep All Day" and Rhett Miller's "Come Around," this compilation sounds more like a mix tape you'd want your crush to hand over to you rather than a commercially produced product.

Easy on the ears and relaxing, this is the kind of CD your mom wouldn't complain about even if you play it over and over again.

Other hits included in this album are Duncan Sheik's "Barely Breathing," Nickel Creek's "This Side," The Verve Pipe's "The Freshmen," Alana Davis' "32 Flavors," Shawn Mullins' "Lullaby," Oasis' "Wonderwall," David Gray's "Babylon," Jeff Buckley's "Last Goodbye," Binocular's "Deep," Toad the Wet Sprocket's "Walk On the Ocean" and Barenaked Ladies' "Call and Answer."

If there's anything I don't like about this album, it's the name. It's almost kinda annoying.

Which song in the compilation speaks to you the most?

THREE lucky 2bU! readers will win copies of the Almost Kinda Acoustic CD. If you want to join, send your answers to the question above along with your name, age, school/office and contact info to **contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph** by noon on August 4.

Fabulous beauty bargains

Lora
Gabol

FEW things can trigger life-altering changes as much as a first paycheck. That single piece of paper makes you grow up faster than 10 doses of growth balls dissolved in Nido. You get your first real taste of independence, no longer dependent on the allowance from Mommy or Daddy.

I have gone from chronic binge-shopper to a *kuripot* Ebenezer Scrooge incarnate with an uncontrollable penny-pinching impulse since the day the first bills borne of my "hard work" landed on my palms. Each purchase thereafter has followed my three-word shopping philosophy: value for money.

If you're thinking of scrimping on your next beauty purchase, which means using Perla in place of your regular facial cleanser, you're way off base! Befriending your wallet need not make your *kikay* kit your sworn enemy. I made it my own personal mission one afternoon to sniff out the best beauty bargains (and I mean bargain) from the most discreet aisles of health and beauty outlets, department stores and pharmacies—an afternoon that stretched on for another day due to the amazingly wide selection of prods that won't break the bank. The best part? These fab finds all ring up to less than two hundred bucks—that's only two frappuccinos skipped (not to mention a lot of calories saved).

Shower buddies

Have an extra grand time in the shower with a sweet-smelling, moisture-rich body wash like Human (yup, the clothing store) Milk and Honey Shower Cream (P99) and bask in luxury that rivals Cleopatra's famous bath ritual. For an invigorating treat, lather up with a foaming scrub and watch your skin turn into a picture of silky perfection. I'm loving Freeman Lathering Shower Scrub in either tingly-cool Blueberry and Champagne or fruity Peach and Pearberry (P180). For the no-frills beauties out there, an exfoliating bar will do your skin just as well. Try Beads and Bath Soap with Oatmeal and Seaweed. At P30, that's practically free!

For smooth skin

Follow up that bath with a velvety body lotion to seal in moisture. Pair your honey and milk bath cream with just-as-sweet Human Honey and Milk Body Lotion (P75). If you want something lighter but equally moisturizing, allow some space for Nivea Body Moisturizing Body Spray (P180). It gives a sheer veil of moisture without that warm, sticky feeling. Don't forget your SPF! Nivea UV Protection Lotion has just enough to keep the sun's rays away. At P205, I'm cheating a little, but hey, the huge bottle has enough to last until your next paycheck (or allowance).

For smooth, hair-free stems and arms, do an at-home waxing with Epilin hair remover (P129). Look, ma, no cloth strips needed!

Hair fixes

Blow-drying addicts, take heed. Protect those precious strands with a heat-activated shampoo. Thermasilk Shampoo (P180) leaves heat-styled hair as soft as ever, and smells great, too! You gotta love St. Ives Hair-Repair Intensive Conditioner with Peppermint (P194). Massage a dollop onto your hair and scalp and feel it working its magic—literally! Once a week, treat your mane to an instant hot oil. Alberto VO5 Shower Works breathes new life into dull hair in a minute.

For the best styling products, stock up on the Bench Fix line and get a salon-quality 'do for a fraction of the price (P75-P100). The newly-released Bench Fix Hair Refresher is becoming a favorite, and is especially handy if you spend a lot of time outdoors or with nasty smokers who leave their stinky evidence on your hair.

Tootsie treats

Get those toes out of your sneaks and into the spotlight with prods for sandal-worthy feet. Scrub away rough, tough skin with Lander Peppermint Foot Scrub (P69), then massage Ashe Fresh Feet Cool Relief Liquid Powder (P95) on your soles for an "ahhh"-worthy pampering moment. Wear your strappiest shoes with a pedicure and a coat of Bobbie nail polish at P20 a pop. You can afford to change colors with your mood.

Saving face

Say goodbye to bank-breaking facial TLC. Keep your skin cleansing routine simple yet effective with dermatologist-recommended celeb favorite Cetaphil (P194). It's a makeup remover and light moisturizer in one. I also swear by Dove facial foam (P102) for thoroughly getting rid of dirt and grime without the harshness. Spritz on a mist of good old Evian (P150) before a light layer of Pond's moisturizing cream (P72) to keep skin supple and young.

In the morning, protect your lovely face with Godiva Green Tea Sunblock Cream (P80)—a sunscreen, anti-oxidant and mattifier in a bottle. For a quick complexion pick-me-up, try Freeman Silk-a-peel Peel-off Masque (P150) with cool cucumber and therapeutic ginseng to get rid of deep-seated impurities and boost circulation. Don't neglect the lips! Slick on lip balm for kissable smoochers. Yummy Liprageous lip balm (P120 for three) keeps lips moist with a hint of rosy color.

Color crazy

Makeup mavens will have a lot of fun scouring beauty shelves for cheap yet fun *kikay* delights. Start off with a light powder for a clean canvas. Godiva Pressed Powder (P150 for compact, P80 for refill) is amazingly light and good for your skin. Shape those brows (stop over-plucking already!) with In2It! Cute Eyebrow powder (P179.75) that may double as a liner (apply with a wet liner brush) as well. Get mesmerizing eyes with fun colors from Fashion 21 twist eye shadow pencil (P65). For even more drama, line your upper lid with Ever Bilena Liquid Liner (P75), curl your lashes, and apply a coat or two of Ever Bilena Clear mascara (P70).

For blushing cheeks, nothing beats Herbench Pretty When Pinched (P115) that now comes in two shades. Lip candy lovers, take your pick from the many lip treats in irresistible colors. The best makeup artists all swear by Ever Bilena's lipliners (from P58-P80) for a feather-proof pucker. Top it off with Aido Lipshiner (P50) for gloss that stops traffic. Fashion 21 Candy Glazed Twist Gloss (P120) has the prettiest pinks when your look calls for subtle glam.

All products are available at PCX and leading department stores.

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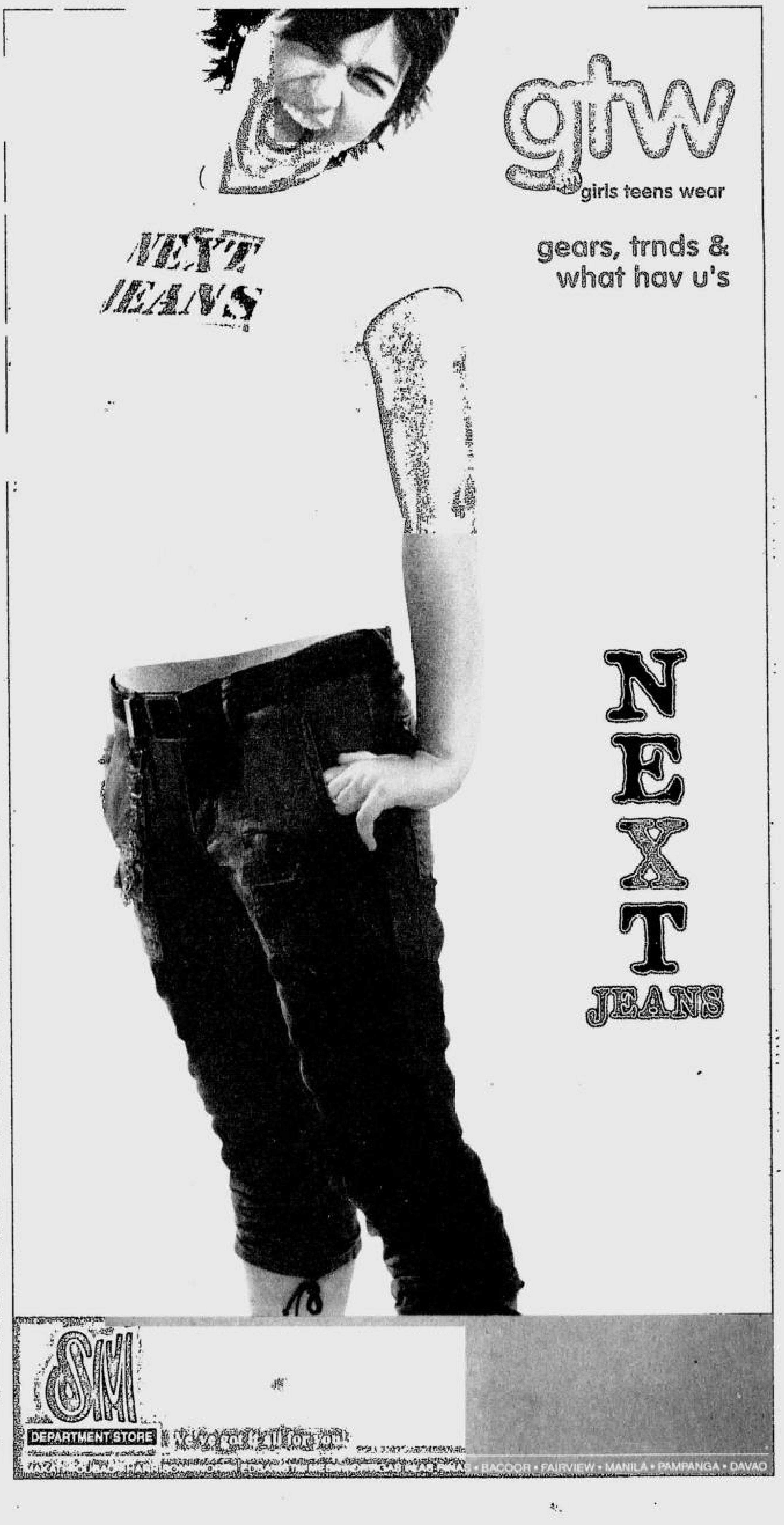
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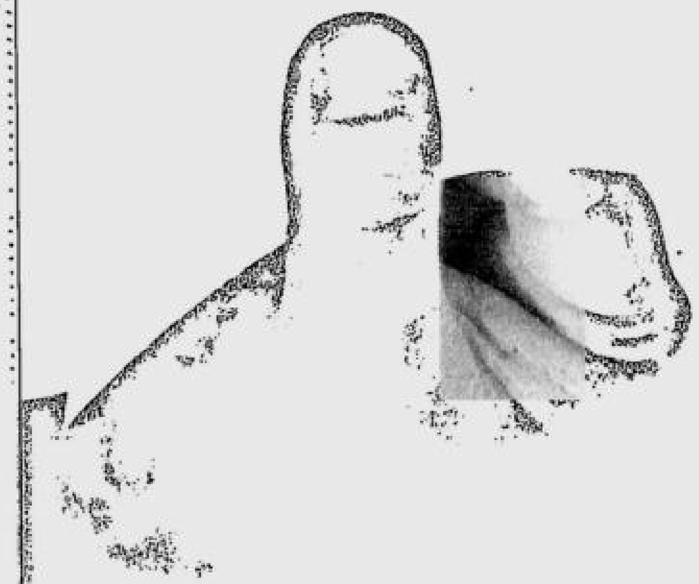

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